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Colorado Springs Independent

Brienne Boortz

KING of SPACE

Grant Sabin takes a wide-open approach to the blues 19

By Bill Forman

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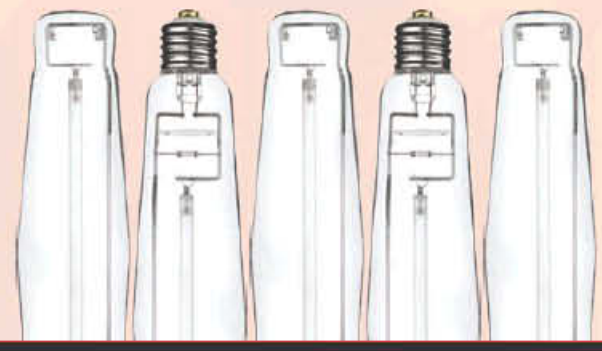

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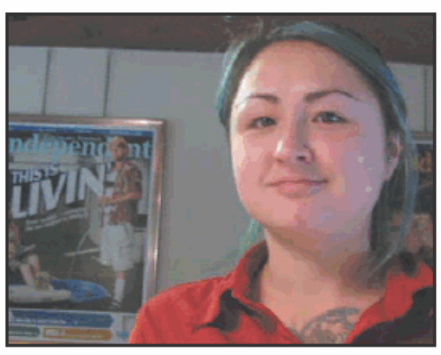

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News:
Welcome to frack land

The bottom line is this: Oil and gas drilling is going to happen within the Colorado Springs city limits starting next year.

Some are thankful, saying it means new jobs and new tax money amid a sluggish recovery and a stubbornly high unemployment rate. Others are not so pleased.

24

7 Days to Live:
Have a seat

You Can't Take It With You opened on Broadway in 1936 and played for more than 800 performances, a record at the time. Now being staged by TheatreWorks, it's a fine addition to the holidays, says director Geoffrey Kent. "TheatreWorks likes to have a play with a holiday feel, but not necessary a Christmas classic."

32

AudioFile:
Shining dirty

'She is going to be a star," declares NPR, and it just might be right. Up-and-coming hip-hop/soul/roots singer ZZ Ward has definitely made 2012 count: She released her mixtape *Eleven Roses* back in February, followed up with the *Criminal* EP in May, and made her full-length debut with *Til the Casket Drops* in October.

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On the Cover
Photo by Brienne Boortz.

UpComing

If one year ever called out for a **photographic farewell**, 2012 is it. From the Waldo Canyon Fire to the USA Pro Cycling Challenge to November's hard-fought election, the events and emotions of this year may best be captured in pictures. So we're asking if you'll share yours. Send your photos — at least 5x7 and 200 dpi — to newsroom@csindy.com by Wednesday, Dec. 19. Please include your full name. And we may include it in an upcoming issue. Learn more at csindy.com.

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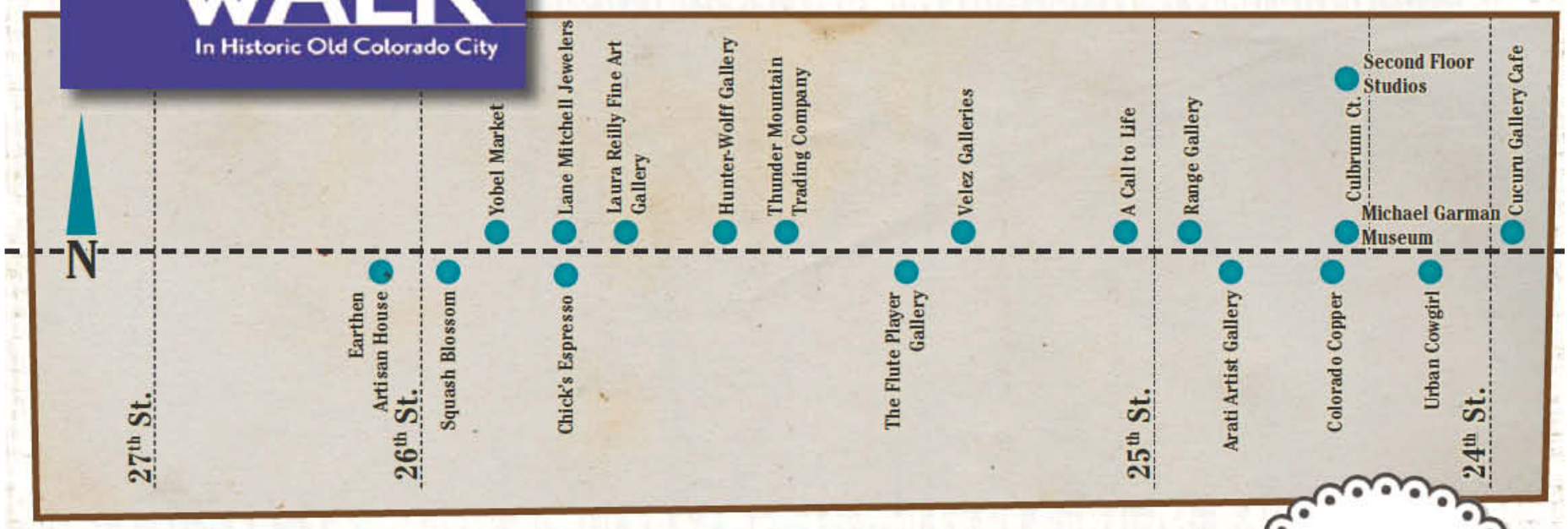

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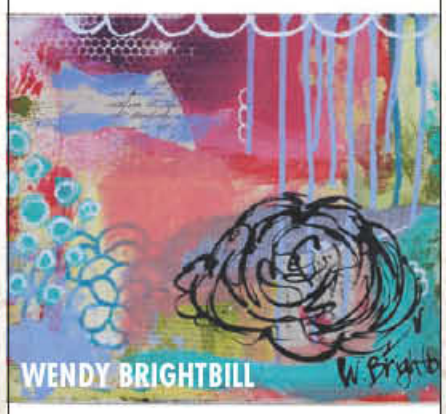

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SliceOfLife

Bryan Oller

A horde of Santas amassed along the Sante Fe Trail Saturday for the Chasing Santa 5K Run. Later that night, SantaCon participants hit downtown.

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Letters

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If your comments are mailed or e-mailed to us, we'll consider them for publication — unless you request otherwise. Please include your name, city of residence and a daytime phone number for verification.

Division of powers

At City Council meetings Nov. 26-27, former City Attorney Jim Colvin made a most substantive recommendation. He pointed out that, whether meeting formally as City Council or sitting as the Utilities Board, their functions are primarily legislative. Accordingly, authority over Colorado Springs Utilities is an executive responsibility of the city executive, i.e., CEO Mayor Bach.

Colvin recommends that the issue be put to a vote of the people in the April 2013 municipal election. Many of us in this city of 450,000 find it a travesty and insult to the voters that the mayor has been powerless over this city's principal asset, the $2 billion CSU. If it takes a charter amendment to rectify the situation, it should be done. Authority over Utilities should be restored to the mayor.

There was spirited discussion regarding a $545,000 shortfall in the Utilities budget. Since the amount relates to watering city parks, Council members, Mayor Bach and the CSU representative expressed diverging opinions about who is responsible for payment. This is an ideal case exemplifying the need to carry out Jim Colvin's recommendation.

Oddly, no mention was made of the $73.5 million contract the Utilities Board had awarded Neumann Systems Group. Ratepayers have never been told how much monthly or annually we are doling out for our "investment." If a timeout were called and payments suspended for six months, couldn't CSU then easily make up its $545,000 shortfall?

A parting thought: Incredibly, CSU has spent $8.3 million over five years on outside PR firms, despite employing a 21-person in-house public affairs staff. Considering CSU is a monopoly, much PR activity is preaching to the choir. If they are dedicated to good communication with ratepayers, how come Utilities Board meetings are not carried on springsgov.com same as Council's?

— John A. Daly
Colorado Springs

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'Somebody needs to learn the Queen's English, my dear.'

— Twitter user @royalfoetus, striking back at those who dare question the spelling of the parody account 'celebrating' the pregnancy of the Duchess of Cambridge.

Follow the leader

To Rep. Doug Lamborn: Please consider supporting our president's tax plan. The election and the polls show that his plan has the overwhelming support of the American people.

I am an enthusiastic supporter of President Obama. I believe that he is trying to do his best with the executive tools that are available to him. His style of leadership includes the use of the bully pulpit and I cheer every time he solicits the support of the people.

I also believe that continued gridlock in solving our country's fiscal problems is extremely counterproductive. Please discontinue this strategy when representing the 5th Congressional District of Colorado. It was not the intent of our country's founding fathers that Grover Norquist have so much representation in Congress and the people have so little. The very rich in this country have contributed very little from the Bush years to the present, and yet the middle class have sacrificed all. It is time for the very rich to pay their fair share. Trickle down economics has been tested over the course of three decades and many empirical studies prove conclusively that IT DOES NOT WORK!

— William Mendell
Colorado Springs

Electoral autopsy

Although the 2012 election is still being scrutinized for where the parties and candidates went wrong or right, what is not being looked at is each party's most basic beliefs and how they affected undecided voters. In the late stages of a presidential campaign, those voters' decisions are often reduced to either deal breakers or deal makers that are a product of their deepest core beliefs. These are issues for which a voter has drawn a red line and can either comfortably vote for a particular candidate or party, or not.

While one-issue voters can, often correctly, be considered immature, there are for most of us some lines we will not cross.

Gay people are surely concerned with the economy, but at the same time you can't expect them to vote for a party that questions the validity of their very existence.

Young people are not going to vote in great numbers against their ability to afford an education by selecting a man who thinks concern for class size is a ruse, and a party that continually cuts education funding.

Who among middle-class parents would vote for a party whose biggest concern is to protect the top 2 percent from any more taxes?

How many Latinos would vote for a man who expects them to self-deport?

What self-respecting woman would vote for a party that calls for taking her healthcare decisions out of her hands so a small group of old men can tell her what's best for her?

LongStoryShort

There's more than one way to solve a math problem.

"When I was 17, I was 22 in every state except Colorado," says Grant Sabin. "And I stayed 22 until last year, when I turned 21."

Fuzzy math comes naturally to the Colorado Springs musical prodigy, who played his first gig at the age of 13.

The subject of this week's cover story (which begins on p. 19), Sabin has a naturally occurring whiskey rasp that could give Tom Waits a run for his money. His rootsy sound and darkly drawn lyrics are that of a much older soul than a bouncer would figure from the birthdate on his driver's license.

"I didn't drink in bars in town because there was no way I could get away with it," says Sabin, noting that his age was one of the first things anyone would hear about him.

Touring, on the other hand, turned out to be a different story. "Usually my trick was just to simply look the doorman in the eye and nod as I quickly walk right past him," he says. "After my first tour, I realized how easy it was to get drinks from the stage, and it gave me a level of confidence that translated off stage."

With his 22nd birthday coming up this month, Sabin's confidence continues to grow. And as is obvious on *Anthromusicology*, his first album for the Haunted Windchimes' Blank Tape Records, so does his talent.

The Windchimes will be joining Sabin and his band for a CD release party at Stargazers Theatre on Dec. 14. A copy of *Anthromusicology* is included in the admission price.

— Bill Forman

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Get Involved has moved to Volunteer Opportunities (p. 39) for the week.

There are just some things voters refuse to agree to. The late-voting undecideds may have waited to make their decision, but in reality those decisions were made by the Republican party long before Nov. 6.

— Mike Clow
Colorado Springs

Tin Man party

I picked up a few things I needed at the store, all made in China. A computerized self-checkout totaled up my order and conspired with other robots to take money out of my bank account. On the way out I stopped at a DVD machine and rented a movie that, ironically, contained only computer-generated characters. Oops! Better hit the head before I hit the road! In the men's room there are two robots quietly waiting to use the facilities. They're shy around people but as I leave I hear one fart deodorant as the other one pees disinfectant into the urinal I just used.

We barely notice them anymore. Today robots fight our wars, disarm bombs for us, secure our homes and businesses, teach classes, monitor our babies, entertain our children, sort our mail, and vacation on Mars while sending home spiritual photos of wheel prints in the sand. They help assemble our smart cars, which warn us about collisions, park for us, and will be driving themselves in a few years.

Robots play music, dance Gangnam style, swarm like bees and run in packs like dogs. They answer our phone calls and direct us to the correct department, balance our checkbooks, pay our bills, and remind us of important events. They have our coffee ready when we wake up, cook our food, record our favorite shows... the robots are everywhere, and they're fitting in nicely.

Still, we consider them one of the greatest threats to mankind, right up there with climate change and nukes. Robots aren't a threat to mankind, they merely mirror our inner sociopath. But they are a threat to capitalism. Technology is slowly crushing capitalism into a fine gray-green powder.

What will we do when the machines can do it all for us, besides look back and laugh at 10 percent unemployment? A socialist or communist economy would welcome this problem; let the robots all do the work while the people spend their government checks ordering products on a touch-screen TV.

I'd suggest we start taxing technology, immediately if not sooner, but then we'd have to give them personhood rights. No taxation without representation, so we'll have to let them form a Tin Man Party and vote (they'll need ID too). As a concession to Donald Trump only robots born in the U.S. will be allowed to be president.

— Steve Suhre
Colorado Springs

The right to resist

Does Israel have a "right to exist"? Do we? Where is it written? What does it mean when a people declare that they have the "right to exist" as they please because they are a "democracy," but other people have no such right?

Israel refuses to negotiate with Hamas — will not recognize the political leadership that the Palestinians chose in internationally monitored elections — because, Israel declares, Hamas will not recognize Israel's "right to exist."

And why should Hamas recognize that "right"? If there is a "right to exist," is there not an equal right to resist — illegal seizures of property, expropriations and appropriations, illegitimate detainments, incarcerations, torture, homicides.

"We the people," in the infant republic of the United States, did not think much about the existence of American Indians, women or slaves. Some three score years after our founding, we did not think Mexico had a "right to exist" north of the Rio Grande. We did not think Hawaii had the right to exist as a sovereign nation. Nor, in spite of promises made at the time of the Spanish-American War, did we think the Philippines had the "right to exist" as anything other than a U.S. colony in Asia.

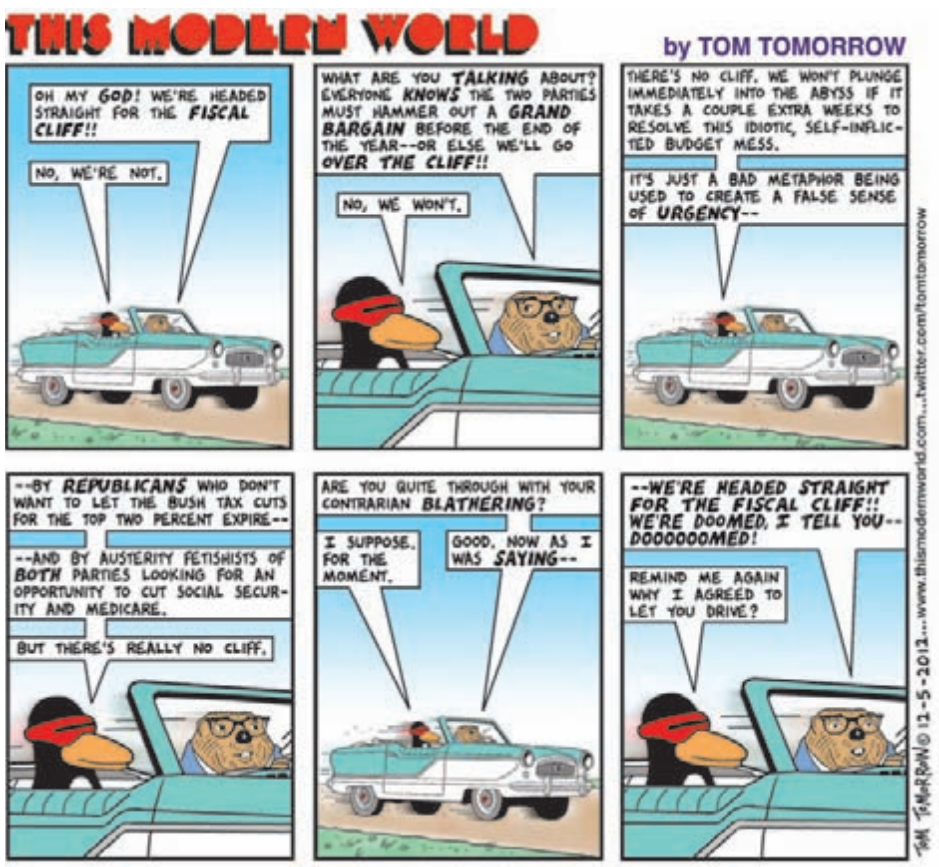
Is it simply power that determines the "right to exist"?

The Zionist state demands the right to exist as a Zionist state — a non-signatory of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, bristling with nuclear weapons. Why can they alone break all the rules of international decorum with impunity, without censure?

According to Noam Chomsky the term "right to exist" is unique to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. No state has a right to exist, and no one demands such a right... Israel's insistence on a right to exist forces Palestinians to provide a moral justification for their own suffering.

Pride, arrogance and lust for power in a nation will corrupt it from within.

— G. Yenne
Colorado Springs


THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
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IT'S JUST A BAD METAPHOR BEING USED TO CREATE A FALSE SENSE OF URGENCY--
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--AND BY AUSTERITY FETISHISTS OF BOTH PARTIES LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO CUT SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE.
BUT THERE'S REALLY NO CLIFF.
ARE YOU QUITE THROUGH WITH YOUR CONTRARIAN BLATHERING?
I SUPPOSE, FOR THE MOMENT.
GOOD. NOW AS I WAS SAYING--
--WE'RE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE FISCAL CLIFF!! WE'RE DOOMED, I TELL YOU-- DOOOOOOMED!
REMIND ME AGAIN WHY I AGREED TO LET YOU DRIVE?
TOM TOMORROW © 12-5-2012 ... www.thismodernworld.com ... twitter.com/tomtomorrow

Cooperation needed

It is time for Republicans to reach across the aisle. Money can be saved for one, by reducing expenses on health care delivery systems.

I was at a hospital not long ago, and there was a large slotted case filled with forms of different insurance companoes. Why not standardize them?

And to Doug Lamborn: How old is the Earth?

— Jeff Adams
Colorado Springs

The re-election

Mr. Nemanich's statistical epiphany and Charles Murray's book *The Bell Curve*, are both wrong. They have intelligence racially trapped. Intelligence is enlightenment, awareness. It is not what color house it's lived in. The economically illiterate re-elected the road runner as commander and chief.

— Joan Christensen
Fountain

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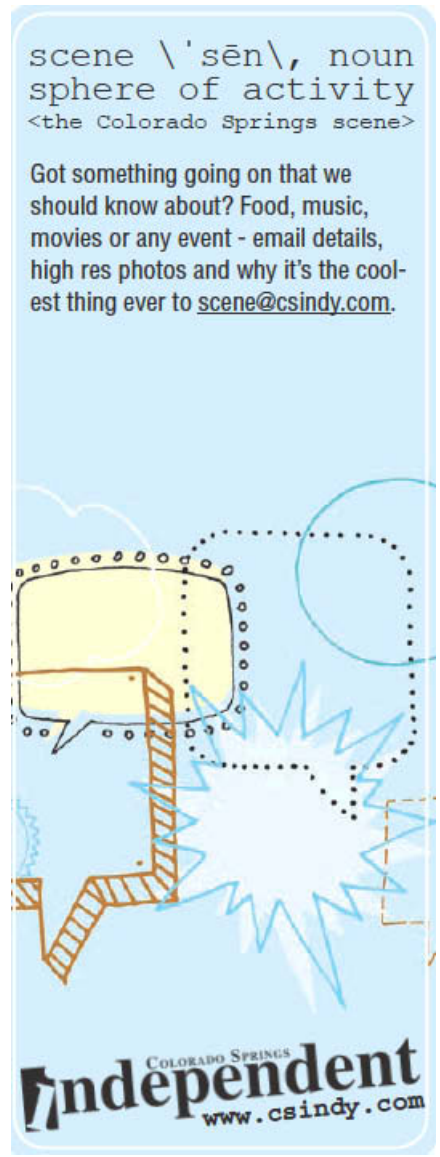
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Meet a CEO who gives her staff inspiration through perspiration.
Margaret Sabin is not your typical CEO and President. One minute she's striding the halls of Penrose St. Francis, one of four she leads. The next minute, she switches out her tailored suit for workout gear, instructing an intense weight-loss workout with her staff. Margaret also launched a hiking club. She switched out soda machines for juice. She even launched health-improvement programs in surrounding neighborhoods. Margaret is clearly a role model who gives her heart every day. It's time we gave people like her ours. The American Heart Association is looking for 30 wonderful individuals with big hearts for their 30th Annual Heart Ball. Margaret certainly is one of them. Do you know another?
Nominate her or anyone at csheartball.org
American Heart Association
American Stroke Association

StreetSmarts

Drawing lines

Oil and gas exploration could bring jobs to our area, but at what cost? City Council has decided to adopt rules for drilling within city limits, but what happens outside city limits could affect us, too. Will the rules be too strict, or not strict enough?

Dennis Williams of the ***northwest side*** works in ***plumbing and excavation***

Do you think the city needs to make rules for oil and gas drilling? Yes. If it's not governed, it will get out of hand. Even if it is governed, people will push the limits of the rules.

What comes to mind when I say the word "fracking"? Underground fracturing of the shale. Once you drill down, you have to force materials in to crack the ground.

Couldn't that hurt the environment? No, it's safe. It's too deep to affect the environment.

Do you see lots of new job creation? I hope so. We need industry here. We've lost a lot of jobs, and future jobs need to come from industry and manufacturing. We need more than just the military.

In 20 years, what do you think will be our main source of energy? I hope it's electric, and that we can store it. I know they're getting close to figuring that out.

Sean Brown from ***San Diego*** is ***unemployed***

Colorado might soon be using fracking to explore for oil. What are you thoughts on that? Honestly, I don't know what that is.

It's fracturing layers of shale under the earth's surface to extract oil and gas. Oh. Well, it seems like developing wind, solar and water power might be a better idea. You have a really nice area here; you should preserve the environment.

Do you think the U.S. will ever be energy self-sufficient? No, it's too late. We're stuck now; we should have listened to Jimmy Carter.

Do you think we'll still be dependent on oil 20 years from now? The oil will eventually get all used up, so there are a lot of other energy sources we should be developing in the meantime that wouldn't destroy the environment.

Miriam Cockrell of ***Widefield*** is an ***event specialist***

Do you think fracking could harm the environment? Yes, absolutely, if they hit the wrong spot.

Is it worth taking that chance for the jobs oil exploration could bring to the area? It's still going to be more than a few years for us to see the jobs.

Do you have any concerns about environmental damage? Yes, I'd feel a little uneasy about it. I've lived here most of my life, and there's already been a lot of damage done. If they started drilling, they'd have to know exactly what they're doing.

Do you think the city has the right to impose rules and regulations? Yes, I agree completely with that decision.

— Kendall Kullman

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NationalView

By Leora Horwitz

A shortcut to wasted time

A few years ago, we doctors kept handwritten charts about patients. Back then, it sometimes seemed like we spent half our time walking around looking for misplaced charts, and the other half trying to decipher the handwriting when we found them. The upside was that if I did have the chart in front of me, and I saw that someone had taken the trouble to write something down, I believed it.

Unfortunately, this is no longer the case. The advent of electronic medical records has been a boon to patient safety and physician efficiency in many ways. But it has also brought with it a slew of "timesaving" tricks that have had unintended consequences. These tricks make it so easy for doctors to document the results of standard exams and conversations with patients that it appears more are being documented without ever having happened in the first place.

For instance, doctors used to have to fill out a checklist for each step in a physical exam. Now, they can click one button that automatically places a comprehensive normal physical exam in the record. Another click brings up a normal review of systems — the series of questions we ask patients about anything from nasal congestion to constipation.

Doctors are paid by how much they write down.

Of course, you shouldn't click those buttons unless you have done the work. And I have many compulsively honest colleagues who wouldn't dream of doing so. But physicians are not saints.

Hospitals received $1 billion more from Medicare in 2010 than in 2005. They say this is largely because electronic medical records have made it easier for doctors to document work and be reimbursed. That's probably true to an extent. But I bet a lot of doctors have succumbed to the temptation of the click. Medicare thinks so, too. This fall, the attorney general and secretary of health and human services warned the five major hospital associations that this kind of abuse would not be tolerated.

Then there are the evil twins, copy and paste. I've seen "patient is on day two of antibiotics" appear for five days in a row on one chart. Worse, I've seen my own assessments of a patient's health appear in another doctor's notes. A 2009 study found that 90 percent of physicians reported copying and pasting when writing daily notes.

Reading the electronic chart has become a game of looking for a small needle of new information in a haystack of falsely comprehensive documentation and outdated, copied text. Why do we doctors do this to ourselves? Largely, it turns out, for the same reason most people do most things: money.

Doctors are paid not by how much time they spend with patients, how well they listen or how hard they think about what could be wrong, but by how much they write down. And the rules for what we have to write are Byzantine: Medicare's explanation takes 87 pages. To receive the highest level of payment for an office visit, I have to document several aspects of the main problem, screening questions about at least 10 organ systems, something about the patient's family and/or social history, and/or a lengthy physical exam. In addition, I have to demonstrate that my medical decision making was very complicated, considering the number of possible diagnoses and treatments, the complexity of the data and/or the patient's risk of serious complications. That type of visit is supposed to take about 40 minutes.

I recently spent 40 minutes with a patient who had just placed her mother into hospice. My patient was distraught, not sleeping. I gave her advice, but mostly I just listened. By the end of our visit, she was feeling much better. But I wouldn't be able to bill much for that visit: I didn't review her medical or family history, conduct a review of organ systems or perform a physical exam. The payment system tells me to cut her off after 10 minutes, listen to her heart and give her a sleeping pill. Which doctor visit would you prefer?

Of course, I would never go back to the bad old days of lost charts, illegible writing, manual prescription refills and forgotten information. Electronic medical records help us avoid dangerous drug interactions and medical ordering errors, remind us to provide preventive care and allow us to view data as trends over time. Even copy and paste have legitimate uses.

But physicians need to be better stewards of our records so they remain useful, regardless of skewed incentives and new technology. And as a nation, we should question whether paying physicians by documentation — instead of by time spent on quality patient care — is such a great idea after all.

Leora Horwitz, a primary care internist, is an assistant professor at the Yale School of Medicine. This piece originally ran in the **New York Times.**

LowDown

By Jim Hightower

Small-town folks win

One of the proudest progressive victories of the Nov. 6 elections was produced by some scrappy citizens in the burg of Brecksville, Ohio, population 14,000.

Organized under the banner of Brecksville Citizens for Transparent Politics, they decided they needed to speak out about the U.S. Supreme Court's outrageous edict allowing unlimited sums of corporate cash to flood secretly into America's elections.

So, they collected signatures to qualify an initiative for the local ballot, calling for a U.S. Constitutional amendment "To establish that corporations are not people and money is not speech."

A couple of states and dozens of cities proposed similar initiatives this year, but Brecksville's unique proposal added a useful bit of oomph to the call.

If passed, it would require city officials to designate one day in February for the next 10 years as "Democracy Day," on which the mayor would host a citywide hearing about how the surge of campaign money was affecting the city.

City officials must designate a 'Democracy Day.'

After the hearing, the mayor must send a letter to the legislature and Congress proclaiming the citizens' opposition to corporate electioneering.

Mayor Jerry Hruby, however, balked at this outbreak of democracy, saying it required the city to take an official position on a federal issue outside its jurisdiction.

He went to the board of elections to disqualify it from the November ballot — but the board deadlocked, and the matter went to Ohio's secretary of state.

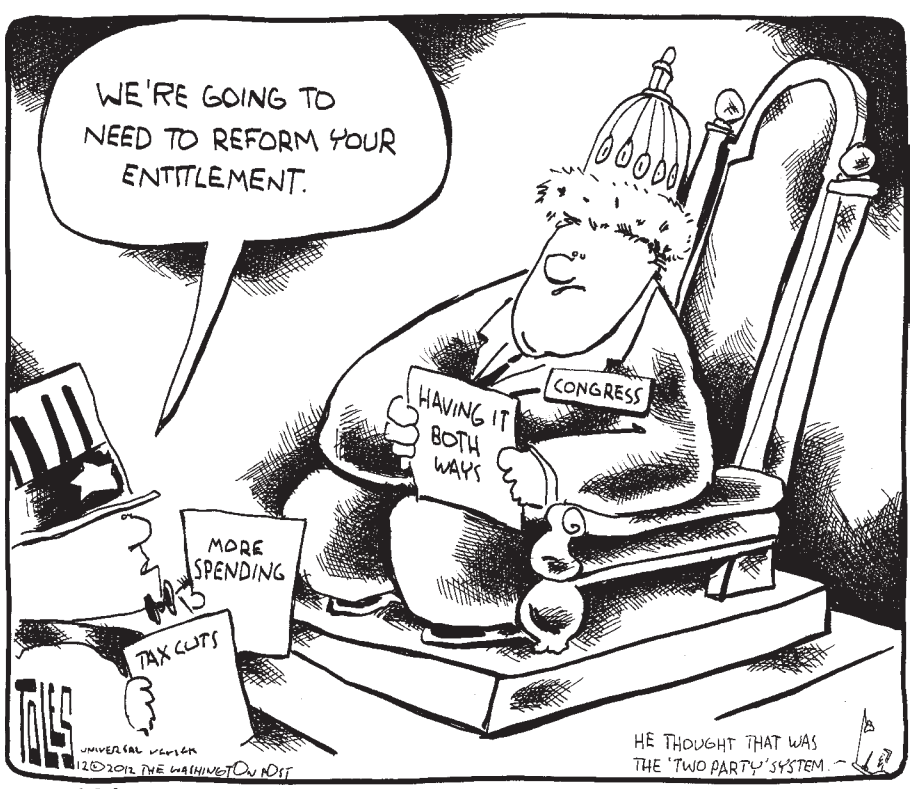
To the mayor's surprise, this Republican office broke the tie in favor of the citizens. Then the mayor appealed to the Ohio Supreme Court, where, finally, with barely a month to go, a 5-2 majority of the judges ruled that the people's proposal was legit.

Completing this triumph of citizens' perseverance, 52 percent of Brecksvillians proudly voted the initiative into law on Election Day.

See, it is possible to fight city hall.

And win!

Jim Hightower is the best-selling author of **Swim Against the Current: Even a Dead Fish Can Go With the Flow***, on sale now from Wiley Publishing. For more information, visit jimhightower.com.*



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BetweentheLines

By Ralph Routon

Can Anschutz take our daily back to the future?

Deciding to write about the *Gazette* this week — that's a no-brainer, after the news of **Philip Anschutz** buying Colorado Springs' daily newspaper.

The tougher part is where to begin, since the publication has been around in some form for 140 years. Let's start with the one moment that, for the roomful of journalists who went through it together, was instantly unforgettable.

In late February 1986, those of us working at the paper then known as the *Gazette-Telegraph* gathered for a special staff meeting. **D.R. "Bob" Segal**, president of parent company Freedom Communications, had flown in from California to confirm what we already knew, that Freedom was buying the *Colorado Springs Sun* to shut it down, ending our city's spirited newspaper war.

'We want to make this the best newspaper of its size in America.'

We had won that war after building a large, talented and inspired staff. If we could justify an expense, we got the green light. But with a monopoly, we feared what would happen next. Freedom might cut staff and expenses to make as much money as possible. Why not?

Segal stunned us all that day. He said Freedom would invest even more in the paper here, ending his speech with an aggressive challenge: "We want to make this the best newspaper of its size in America."

You can't imagine how exciting, and empowering, that message was. The staff responded by taking the *Gazette-Telegraph* to new heights, with a publisher, **E. Roy Smith**, who rarely visited the newsroom. Like Freedom's best publishers, his strategy was to hire good people and get out of their way, while focusing more on the business side of the operation. The editor and managing editor for most of that decade, **Tom Mullen** and **Jon Stepleton**, respectively, set high standards and also stayed mostly in the background, except when support was needed.

Successful ingredients

In that atmosphere, top-notch journalists thrived. They also did memorable work, whether it was living among the homeless to do an award-winning series, uncovering rules infractions at Colorado College that led to changing hockey coaches, or pursuing countless other investigative and enterprise efforts.

In those days, if you needed a week or a month to research and put together a story, you could make the case and get it. If the football schedule meant flying to San Diego, then Tucson, then Houston, that was OK. When the Olympics were in Seoul, Barcelona or Albertville, France, we went.

Just in sports, the staff would churn out at least 20 local bylines for any given Saturday paper, then 25 to 30 more for Sunday, with an emphasis on high schools as well as Air Force and Denver pro sports. Also, the *G-T* helped lead the campaign for a new arena, and we spearheaded the crusade to bring the Sky Sox here.

One of the newsroom leaders was **Scott Smith**, a superb sports writer and editor then, now lifestyle editor and columnist at *The Pueblo Chieftain*. Asked for his thoughts, he said, "It still amazes me now that, after we won the newspaper war, Freedom came in and added bodies to the room. Unprecedented. And we responded. We became more professional, in every way, in every department.

"We all worked our tails off, but it was because we were proud of the paper and enjoyed giving the readers a great product. And we made money for the chain."

The paper was winning awards, but the staff also was proud of something else.

"How good were we? We had 85 percent household penetration," he says of the statistic that ranked near the top nationally. "Our Sunday numbers I believe flirted with 140,000, and that's when the county was half the size it is now." (And those circulation figures, now with online audience included, have fallen substantially.)

In the midst of that period came the zenith. Writer **Dave Curtin**, editor **Carl Skiff** and photographer **Tom Kimmell** spent six months working on the story of **Adam** and **Megan Walter**, two children badly hurt and disfigured in a propane-gas explosion inside their home near Ellicott. That story, published as a special section on Jan. 8, 1989, won Curtin the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing.

Beyond the glory

You'll notice, we haven't mentioned the editorials. They were stubbornly libertarian through those years, but not the paper's true personality. The news, sports and features were so strong, with such depth and perspective, the opinion pages were usually an afterthought. (More recently, with the paper so thin and shallow, the strident and heavy-handed editorials have stood out more, turning off many readers and polarizing the community.)

Those blissful "glory days" continued a while longer, but after Smith retired as publisher in 1994, the paper (and Freedom) soon began to change. It still looked flashy, but many of the veterans weren't as appreciated. Great people left, and younger, less gifted folks replaced them. Gimmicks like "civic journalism" fizzled. Changing the name to the *Gazette* in 1997, and dropping *Telegraph*, had no significant impact. There were high moments, but the everyday quality wasn't as consistent, and many key people didn't stay long before moving on.

It all fell apart during the past decade amid the tumble of mid-sized dailies everywhere, Freedom's financial collapse and the alarming drainage of lost historical perspective. Today, that newsroom's survivors from the 1980s have dwindled to only a brave few.

But wait. Now comes Anschutz, with his bottomless pockets. More space, more staff, more journalism. And no more Freedom.

Can the new regime create another era of greatness? The challenge now is different. For generations, daily papers were essential, but not so much anymore. People in their 40s and older, who care about community, still understand how vital it is to have a strong local paper. Younger adults have different priorities and sources for information. They don't care as much about a newspaper being the watchdog over government, education and other institutions. Daily readers don't open the paper as eagerly, wondering what the *Gazette* will say today.

Something else: The news/features/sports staff, despite some recent additions, still can't be more than half the size it was during the best of times.

Can Anschutz reverse the years of long, slow, painful decline? It's a godsend to have the injections of people and resources, which are promised to be substantial. But the difference will come in the ideas, the stories, the digging, the enterprise work and historical knowledge.

That's how it can turn around. That's how the *Gazette* can be great again.

Ralph Routon (routon@csindy.com) worked as an editor and columnist at the* Gazette *from 1977 to 2001.

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News

Broadening news

Colorado billionaire Philip Anschutz buys the *Gazette*, plans to boost content, pages and staff

By Bryce Crawford

Last Thursday, Denver's Philip Anschutz finalized his purchase of the *Gazette* from a rebooted Freedom Communications; Friday, after an announcement to the staff, many of the paper's writers hoisted drinks at Oscar's Oyster Bar in careful celebration.

Bryce Crawford

***The skies are clearing over the* Gazette.**

The deal ends months of rumors and makes our 140-year-old daily a part of the Anschutz Corp.'s Clarity Media Group, which also owns content-farm examiner.com; the *Weekly Standard*, a prominent conservative magazine; and the *Oklahoman*, which, along with The Broadmoor, was owned by the Oklahoma Publishing Co. before the multi-billionaire bought it all in late 2011.

The exchange of the *Gazette* wasn't a bloodless transaction: A handful of people in the newsroom were not offered contracts with the new company, including content director Carmen Boles. She was replaced by Joe Hight, former managing editor of the *Oklahoman*.

He didn't respond to multiple interview requests, but according to Anschutz spokesman Jim Monaghan, Hight will be leading an expansive transformation.

"We [will] look at increased news coverage," Monaghan says in an interview. "We [will] look at staff increases; page increases, obviously; circulation increases. And then, as for the entire digital [side], we would look to grow that as well."

Monaghan says newsroom personnel will be increased by 20 percent, with an additional 30 pages added to the typical week's total. "I think by next week you'll see some changes," he says.

Indeed, on Tuesday, the paper advertised the return of the "Life" section. Other, less noticeable, changes include Clarity's CEO Ryan McKibben — whose brother, P. Scott McKibben, was the *Gazette's* publisher from 2006 to 2008 — joining Hight in leadership as the paper's chairman, as will Christian Anschutz, Philip's son, who will serve as vice-chairman.

Current publisher Dan Steever will remain.

It's left to the rest of us to speculate what else Anschutz's ownership might mean for the *Gazette*. The paper was already on the way back up under the short ownership of Boston entrepreneur Aaron Kushner, who bought Freedom in June.

Reporters like Ned B. Hunter and Garrison Wells now have *Gazette* bylines, while new sports columnist Paul Klee picked a good year to leave Illinois' *News-Gazette* to cover the Broncos (and Rockies).

But as to whether there will be a shift on the paper's much-maligned editorial page, one might check a story by *Politico* about another Anschutz property, the *Washington Examiner*, for a clue.

"When it came to the editorial page, Anschutz's instructions were explicit," wrote Michael Calderone in 2009. "He 'wanted nothing but conservative columns and conservative op-ed writers,' said one former employee." A more recent view comes in a Nov. 28 editorial in the *Oklahoman* that looks skeptically at "the 'science' of global warming."

Monaghan wouldn't speak to any trends in the newly acquired paper's official tone, but did say "contrary points of view" would get space in the op-ed pages as well.

All this leaves one last question: Why the *Gazette*?

"While the industry's in decline, there are significant opportunities on a market-by-market basis, and this is one of them," says Monaghan. "We think the newspaper can be grown, improved, made more meaningful for the community. And I think with the acquisition of The Broadmoor, and spending more time down here, both the family and various individuals associated with Anschutz, everybody paid attention to the *Gazette*. And we consider [Colorado Springs] an extended hometown. So, the pieces just all fit together."

— bryce@csindy.com

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Welcome to frack land

City Council looks ready to welcome oil and gas drillers, but water could still be a problem

By Pam Zubeck

The bottom line is this: Oil and gas drilling is going to happen within Colorado Springs city limits starting next year.

Bradley Flora

Protesters at City Hall last week cut to the chase, and aren't likely to give up the fight anytime soon.

Some people are thankful, saying it means new jobs and new tax money amid a sluggish economic recovery characterized by a stubbornly high unemployment rate.

Others argue it will place drilling rigs within a few hundred feet of homes, parks and businesses, and could spell environmental disaster in a region heavily reliant on tourism and outdoor activities — not to mention a limited water supply.

But state, not local, rules will dictate what is or isn't done to protect air and water quality, because the state asserts it alone has authority over drilling operations. The state, in fact, holds most of the cards in dictating how wells will be drilled and operated, leaving the city with scant control.

Nonetheless, exploration is expected to begin in February after drillers navigate the city's land-use application process, says city interim Planning Director Kyle Campbell.

"I feel comfortable with what the Council has approved," Campbell says. "We've got a well-thought-out ordinance that allows us to move forward."

Opening the door

A year in the making, the city's ordinance won Council approval 6-3 on Nov. 27 after about 30 people spoke, mostly against the measure. Council President Pro Tem Jan Martin and Councilor Val Snider opposed the rules based on environmental concerns, while President Scott Hente dissented because he's frustrated the state considers local home-rule powers meaningless over oil and gas drilling.

If Council approves the ordinance on second reading Dec. 11, the city will open the door for companies with mineral rights to drill in the city, most notably Ultra Resources of Houston, which owns 18,000 acres of the Banning Lewis Ranch.

In a nutshell, rigs can be set up in every zone of the city, including residential areas. Drilling applications will be handled by city staff unless a rig is planned closer than 1,000 feet from any building. In those cases, applicants must go before the Planning Commission and Council, though neither could stop drilling if the applicant meets the state's 350-foot setback requirement and other state rules. And drilling could happen even within 350 feet if permission's given by building owners within that area.

Campbell says the city will require a traffic impact study for each well application to "identify impacts to city streets and bridges" for which the city can assess fees and elicit "financial assurances," such as bonds. During the development review process, the city can ask a company to provide fencing and berms around drilling pads, he says, but can't require anything more restrictive than state rules.

Continuing concerns

The ordinance is silent on air and water quality, which are within the state's purview. That's bad, say drilling opponents, including Springs residents Laurel Biedermann and Mary Talbott.

The state is considering a new rule requiring that water wells within a half-mile of a drill site be tested before drilling, one year after that, and six years after that. If there's no well within a half-mile, drillers would have to look for one within a mile to test.

But Biedermann and Talbott point out that once underground water supplies are polluted, little can be done to restore them.

And now is not the time, they say, to be using precious water supplies that will be rendered useless through hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, when water is mixed with sand and chemicals, including deadly carcinogens like benzene, to shake loose oil and gas deposits otherwise not accessible.

Biedermann notes that pollution and other problems could develop without state regulators knowing about it, because the state is understaffed to monitor 48,000 active wells.

Todd Hartman, spokesman for the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission that oversees drilling, says via e-mail the state employs 17 full-time inspectors and has another 20 "technical staffers" who often work in the field. "We also rely heavily on landowners, neighbors, community members who as you might expect are generally not shy about bringing attention to potential issues at well sites," he says. Hartman adds the agency plans to seek funding next year for five more inspectors.

Guzzling gallons

Pollution aside, Talbott and Biedermann worry about where drillers will get water for fracking operations.

"Each of these 48,000 wells and those coming to our city, destroys 5 million gallons of water," Biedermann says. "It can't be used for any other purpose [after use in fracking]. How can we justify destroying 5 million gallons of water per frack?" Fracking is normally a one-time use of 1 million to 5 million gallons, though wells can be fracked multiple times. For perspective, the city's average use is 73 million gallons per day.

Colorado Springs Utilities hasn't received a request from Ultra or other drillers to get city water, Utilities spokesman Steve Berry says. Ultra declined comment for this story.

As of Nov. 30, city water storage on Pikes Peak stood at 47 percent of capacity, compared to the 30-year average of 65 percent. Systemwide, which includes high-mountain reservoirs, Utilities' storage was at 49 percent capacity, compared to the 30-year average of 66 percent. The historic systemwide low was 44 percent in March 2003.

"If we go into any kind of significant water restrictions next year," Berry says, "that would certainly make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to be selling water for [drilling]."

Even after the Southern Delivery System pipeline from Pueblo Reservoir increases the city's water supply by a third starting in 2016, Berry warns against thinking of SDS as the solution. "There's all kind of conjecture on the impact of climate change, and if there is even going to be enough water for Colorado down the line," he says. "We don't want people thinking [SDS] will solve every conceivable water issue."

Equally unclear is what operators will pay for their water. City Attorney Chris Melcher says in an e-mail the city is preparing a special tariff and rules and regulations for providing water to oil and gas operators that Council likely will consider in January.

"Once the tariff and rules and regulations are in place, water for fracking operations within the city will have to be purchased from Utilities," he writes. "All of these questions and decisions would also depend on the status of the City's water supply, and the capacity of CSU available for non-fracking uses first."

The 1988 Banning Lewis Ranch annexation agreement, a document in dispute since Ultra bought the ranch property last year, gives the city rights to groundwater there. But it also says this: "The city shall allow ANNEXOR to use groundwater under its property for irrigation, cooling tower purposes and such similar non-potable uses subject to specific agreements entered into by and between ANNEXOR and CITY." The agreement also requires the city to help pay the cost of extending lines to provide water service.

If operators want to truck water into the city, a far-fetched strategy given that one frack could require thousands of truckloads, they'll need a pass, Berry says.

"If you're not already on a well, we are the exclusive water provider [in the city] as it's set up now," he says. "So if you wanted to bring in water from somewhere else, you would have to get permission from [the Utilities Board, made up of City Council members]."

Meantime, Talbott agrees with Councilor Lisa Czelatdko that staff should produce monthly, rather than quarterly, reports — an idea rebuffed by Councilor Angela Dougan and left unsettled last week.

Those reports, Talbott says, should include updates on applications received, spill reports, complaints, air pollution readings, amount of sales and use tax paid, and more. "Nothing should be in the shadows," she says.

— zubeck@csindy.com

Noted

News briefs from the Front Range

Pride Center goes political

The Colorado Springs Pride board of directors, which oversees the local Pride Center, Pride Business Network, and Pride Fest, has given its approval to create a separate 501(c)4 organization to advocate on political issues and candidates. It has also agreed to move the Pride Center to a more visible location.

Charles Irwin, executive director, says Pride has been seeking feedback from groups for months and has reviewed two years of user data to see what services the LGBT community wants. Data showed a thirst for more information on political issues, candidate endorsements and political activism.

Pride has attorneys working to set up the 501(c)4, but it will likely take eight months or more to establish the political nonprofit. In the meantime, Pride plans to set up a for-profit advocacy organization that will answer questions and give advice in advance of the April city election.

"Part of the urgency now is to make sure we have something in place for LGBT voices to be heard before the election," Irwin says.

Additionally, Irwin says the Pride Center will move from 2508 E. Bijou St., possibly to downtown, as early as the beginning of the new year. If the space is smaller, some amenities, like the library may be forgone. But walk-ins will still be welcome, and personalized service available. — ***JAS***

Sheriff gets new pad

El Paso County Sheriff Terry Maketa's office was to begin moving Wednesday into the remodeled County Administration Building, 27 E. Vermijo Ave.

Services from various locations will move into the building following a roughly $5 million remodel, part of a county initiative that included acquisition of the Citizens Service Center at 1675 W. Garden of the Gods Road.

Maketa's office will head to the CAB, as well as patrol, investigations, sex offender management, victim assistance, communications, training, internal affairs, finance, records, human resources, concealed handgun program and research and development.

The records section, human resources and internal affairs, now at 210 S. Tejon St., will close from noon Thursday until 8 a.m. Monday to facilitate the process. — ***PZ***

Council candidates announce

Two sitting City Councilors and several newbies have announced plans to run for Council seats in the April municipal election.

Angela Dougan will seek a second term in her northern District 2. At-large City Councilor Tim Leigh will also seek re-election, but as a Councilor in District 1, in the northwestern part of the county. Both have allied with Mayor Steve Bach on major issues, including opposition to installing NeuStream pollution-control technology upgrades to the Martin Drake Power Plant.

Others planning to run for Council include Greccio Housing development director Jill Gaebler (District 5, central), Colorado Springs School District 11 Board Director Al Loma (District 5), and retired postal service worker and church pastor David Moore (District 6, northeast). — ***JAS***

Recovery funds wanted

Today's natural disaster is tomorrow's old news, and Colorado's congressional delegation doesn't want to be forgotten in Washington.

As first reported by *Environment & Energy Publishing*, six members of Colorado's congressional delegation have sent letters to leadership, as well as the president, asking the decision-makers not to forget Colorado — and the ravages of the state's 2012 wildfires — when doling out relief money.

Specifically, the lawmakers, including Colorado Springs-area Rep. Doug Lamborn, are asking that money from Hurricane Sandy relief be directed to the Department of Agriculture's Emergency Watershed Program. — ***CH***

Failing on LGBT rights

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT civil rights organization, has given Colorado Springs 45 out of 100 points for protecting LGBT rights.

The scorecard is part of an inaugural study of 137 U.S. cities called the Municipal Equality Index.

Only one other Colorado city was scored; Denver received 97 points. (While the Springs' 45 is fairly ugly, it could be worse. Cheyenne, Wyo., for instance, received a 2, and a couple others couldn't muster a single point.)

The scores were based largely on the presence of LGBT-friendly laws and policies — for instance, whether the local police department had an LGBT liaison, whether there was a nondiscrimination policy for city employment, and the presence of a Human Rights Commission. — ***JAS***

Attention, thetans!

Colorado Springs, are you feeling a little restless in your old-school Abrahamic religious traditions?

If so, you are in luck. The Church of Scientology has arrived.

According to Derek Murphy, executive director of the newly opened Church of Scientology Mission of Colorado Springs, this is the church's first footprint in Springs.

Open at 5150 N. Union Blvd. Monday, Thursday and Friday evenings from 7 to 9:30, and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, the new mission reflects growing local interest, says Murphy. — ***CH***

Compiled by Chet Hardin, J. Adrian Stanley and Pam Zubeck.

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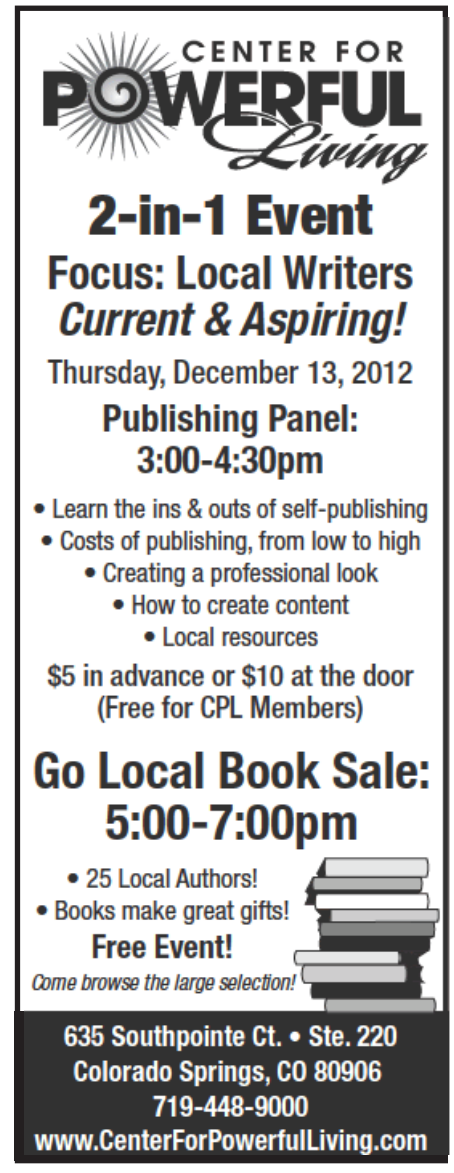

What was that date again?

City apparently retracts its goal of banning panhandling downtown during shopping season

By J. Adrian Stanley

Both the city and the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado are claiming victory in the first battle of a new lawsuit.

J. Adrian Stanley

Neither the legal battle nor the protests will be ending soon.

Filed Nov. 28 by the ACLU on behalf of a diverse list of clients that includes, among others, a panhandler, the Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission, and the *Denver Voice* newspaper, the suit centers on Colorado Springs' new downtown no-solicitation ordinance. Approved by City Council on Nov. 27 on an 8-1 vote, it will ban all solicitation from public areas in the downtown core.

City and ACLU attorneys met Nov. 30 for their first hearing in the lawsuit. The ACLU had asked Denver federal judge Marcia Krieger for a preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order to prevent the ban from going into effect as early as Dec. 2.

The judge denied that action, citing a lack of urgency — because the city told the judge that the law wouldn't go into effect until Dec. 19, and tickets wouldn't be issued for another month after that.

To ACLU legal director Mark Silverstein, the apparent change of date looks like a dodge — and a victory.

"There were four [city] lawyers researching this for a year," Silverstein tells the *Independent*, "and then they say, 'Oh my God, we were taken by surprise, we need some more time.'"

City Attorney Chris Melcher, however, sees things differently, stating in a press release, "We are pleased the court agreed with the City of Colorado Springs that there was no need for any emergency action at this time, and denied the ACLU's temporary restraining order."

Asked by the *Indy*, Melcher states in an e-mail that he had never planned on a Dec. 2 effective date: "There is no change in the effective date of the ordinance. The December 2nd date reported by some outlets was inaccurate. There is a process that must take place before a new ordinance goes into effect, including having it published. This process is being followed."

But Melcher did quote Dec. 2 as the probable effective date to *Gazette* reporter Daniel Chacón in City Council chambers, in a conversation overheard by the *Indy*.

And in a court document, ACLU staff attorney Rebecca T. Wallace notes, the mayor and City Councilors repeatedly told the public that the law actually would be in effect during the holiday shopping season.

In fact, it wasn't until an e-mail from Melcher to ACLU staff attorney Sara Rich from Melcher on Nov. 28 saying "[t]he ordinance will likely not be effective until December 5 at the earliest," that the ACLU claims there was any indication the effective date might not be Dec. 2.

"Apparently in an attempt to gain a continuance of the emergency hearing," Wallace states in the court document, "[the city] has performed an about-face by formulating a new plan to delay the effective date of the ordinance to December 19, 2012. This new plan involves, among other things: the Mayor holding up the ordinance for five days and the clerk holding up the ordinance for another week or so."

The city, however, hasn't tied its opponents' hands for long. The ACLU still plans to ask a judge to take lasting action by preventing the solicitation ban from going into effect until its lawsuit is resolved.

But with the law on hold until Dec. 19, that conversation can wait for the next hearing, scheduled Dec. 13.

— stanley@csindy.com

Capitol punishment

A death-penalty showdown might play out in the Democrat-controlled Colorado Legislature

By Chet Hardin

James Holmes

Opponents of Colorado's death penalty are working behind the scenes in preparation for the 2013 session of the state Legislature.

According to the NAACP's Rosemary Harris Lytle, death-penalty abolitionists have been meeting to discuss the upcoming session and the possibility of moving forward a bill to remove the death penalty.

Harris Lytle wouldn't comment on specifics.

"They are certainly talking about it right now," says House Minority Leader Mark Waller, R-Colorado Springs.

With Democrats in control of the Legislature, this will be the first time that opponents of capital punishment will have an opportunity to advance their agenda since their failed 2009 attempt.

Now, just as then, they will encounter obstacles. For one, as Waller points out, "it's one of those issues that is not strictly down party-line. I think that, for the Democrats, it's going to be an issue of needing some Republican support, not to pass it, but even to bring it forward."

The current Senate president, Springs Democrat John Morse, actually opposed the 2009 bill.

Secondly, this conversation undoubtedly will be affected by the high-profile case of James Holmes, who is standing trial for the Aurora theater shooting. According to a recent Rasmussen poll, 66 percent of Coloradans believe that Holmes ought to receive the death penalty.

Currently, three men sit on Colorado's death row.

For Waller, who supports the death penalty, the best example of where it could arguably be applied is in the case of Miguel Alonso Contreras-Perez, a convicted sex offender accused of murdering a female correctional officer in September. "What do you do with a guy like that?" Waller asks. "He's already serving a life sentence. What, do you give him another life sentence for that?"

Or, for example, Edward Montour Jr., convicted of a 2002 attack on a correctional officer while serving a life sentence.

Montour's case is interesting in its own right. His attorney, David Lane, has put forth a constitutional opposition to the Colorado death penalty based on its supposedly cruel and unusual nature.

"The U.S. Supreme Court has decreed that the legislatures of the states must find a way to rationally distinguish between the many who don't deserve the death penalty from the few who do," says Lane. "And they have done this through the use of 'aggravating circumstances.'"

For years, Colorado's Legislature has added aggravating circumstances, conditions that qualify a murderer for the death penalty. These run the gamut from murdering a judge, or any elected state, county or municipal official, to murdering someone based on race.

Lane commissioned a study of the state's murder cases from 1999 to 2010, finding that aggravating circumstances were present in 92 percent of all murder cases, but only in 1 percent did prosecutors seek death.

"The point of the Supreme Court decision is that it can't be left up to the tender mercies of prosecutors to narrow the field" of who can receive the death penalty, Lane says. "It is a legislative function."

Despite his opposition in 2009, Morse says that his stance on the death penalty is not set in stone.

"I think Colorado does a very good job of administering the death penalty but I also think that we also spend an awful lot of money doing it with no deterrent effect," he says. "It's not a bill I would bring, but if somebody brings it, I wouldn't say for sure that I would be a 'no' vote; I don't know. I'll struggle with that one if it comes back."

However, if the judge rules in Lane's favor, the legislative debate could become moot.

"Then the existence of the death penalty, theoretically becomes unconstitutional, and it doesn't matter what we do," says Morse. "If the rules that this is in violation of the 8th Amendment, cool, they win. Game over."

— chet@csindy.com

GiVE! Campaign

Healing touch

TESSA guides abuse victims along the long road back

By Rhonda Van Pelt

Brienne Boortz

Tara Loo survived, with lots of support.

The slide show includes powerful statistics: "1 in 4 women have been in an abusive relationship." "84% of those victims remain silent." But it's the photos that hit hardest.

The woman lies in a hospital bed, looking as if she had been in a car accident, then tumbled down a hill. Close-ups show her swollen eyes and slashed and bruised body. Other photos show the blood-splattered bathroom where she nearly died.

Three years later, 35-year-old Tara Loo speaks calmly about the attack that nearly killed her, although she admits she sometimes asks herself, "How did this happen to me?"

The short story is that Loo was going through a divorce when she reconnected with a high school friend. And over six months, their relationship changed. At first, the warning signs were subtle. Loo began noticing that the likeable guy was different when they were alone. He became verbally abusive, then it turned physical.

"He would cry and say, 'I'm so sorry, it'll never happen again.' And I'm consoling him, afterwards. He'd call and say, 'I want to kill myself.'"

CAPSULE

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Her friends and family didn't know the relationship was spiraling into darkness.

Protect and serve

On the night of Dec. 12, 2009, Loo told him it was over. Exhausted from fighting, she went to bed; her two daughters were with their father.

Apparently, he strangled her into unconsciousness, then carried her into the bathroom and began attacking her.

She regained consciousness and realized she couldn't stop the 6-foot-5, 250-pound man. "I knew all I could do was plead with him. 'Please don't. I'm going to die in here. Think about my children.'

"He was like a monster. I was trying to connect somehow, trying to snap him out of it. I was staring in his eyes, and it was just nothing. And he said to me, 'I've already done so much, I'll have to kill you and then kill myself.'

"I kept pleading and pleading and he just kept punching me — and then the knife. And then I remember waking up outside. Obviously, he carried me outside, and I was naked."

The man, who thought he'd killed her, went inside to clean up. Loo came to again and screamed for help — fortunately, it arrived in time.

During her week in the hospital, TESSA entered her life.

Though no one really knows why, El Paso County leads the state in domestic violence, and the rate of sexual assault is triple the national average. TESSA, founded in 1977, is the primary local agency offering confidential services to victims of those crimes.

Staff and volunteers help survivors and their families navigate the bewildering aftermath of a crime, through the justice system and beyond. The agency's collaborators include the Colorado Springs Police Department, Court Appointed Special Advocates and Colorado Legal Services.

'I was staring in his eyes, and it was just nothing.'

According to TESSA, advocate visits to abuse survivors at Memorial Hospital increased by 23 percent in fiscal year 2012, which ended Sept. 30. Also in that year:

• 1,861 adults and children victimized by domestic violence or sexual assault received advocacy services.

• The 24/7 Crisis Line helped almost 7,000 callers.

• The Safehouse provided 9,395 nights of shelter, food, case management and counseling to 230 adults and 184 children.

It takes a $2 million budget and a staff of 21 full-time and 19 part-time employees, augmented by volunteers, to accomplish all this — and they need every bit.

"If you can give $1, if you can give $5, that will make a difference in someone's life," says Nancy Duke, TESSA advocacy program manager. "We got a letter last year from a survivor who donated $2 because that's all she had."

Trusting again

Loo's TESSA advocate arranged for a social worker to tell her daughters Madison and Isabella, then 9 and 6, that their mother was in the hospital.

"At first I told them I'd been in a car accident," Loo says. "Then I thought, 'God forbid that this ever happens to them. I would never want them to think this is something they have to hide or lie about.' So I explained it to them in a way that was the best they could handle."

A TESSA advocate was at her side when her attacker was found guilty in what the judge called the worst case of second-degree assault he'd ever seen. A plea agreement led to a 10-year prison sentence, to be followed by a six-year sentence for a similar attack in Gunnison.

As part of her healing process, Loo used photos of her broken body to create that slide show for presentations. She's even taken her message to the *Dr. Phil* show for a segment airing sometime this season. Both she and Duke are driven to help people understand the dynamics of abuse.

"When a woman leaves a relationship, that's the most dangerous time for her," Duke says. "So when people say, 'Why doesn't she just leave?' Well, she can stay in the relationship and attempt to manage that violence, or she can leave at the risk of death. Unless you seek out assistance from TESSA, you don't know what your other options are."

Loo's slide show concludes with photos of her with her daughters and the boyfriend who is helping her trust again. Their happy faces reinforce another slide's message:

"Victim by fate. Survivor by choice."

— newsroom@csindy.com

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- He can't figure out what the 1%-ers are so protesting about. They already have all the money. — *D Bagg*
- He sticks it to the man by not doing a full, four-point stop at STOP signs, while listening to Nelly, sewing his own clothes. — *Talent Scout*
- When he runs for Congress, his platform will be: outlaw daylight savings time, require cell phone companies to use the same number to skip the message that explains how to leave a message and free string cheese at the voting booths. — *J B Goode*
- Whenever possible, he tries to take up two handicap parking spaces because he doesn't want a ding in his pimped yellow Pinto. — *S Complex*

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Brienne Boortz

KING of SPACE

Grant Sabin opens his mind to the possibilities of the blues

By Bill Forman

Hellhounds come in all shapes and sizes, and the ones on Grant Sabin's trail are probably different from the ones on yours.

So, for that matter, are the ones who hounded seminal bluesman Robert Johnson as he famously sold his soul at the crossroads and lost his life to a jealous husband.

Still, the allure of the blues has been transcending cultural and economic barriers ever since Johnson channeled his personal demons in late 1930s recordings like "Crossroad Blues," "Terraplane Blues" and, of course, "Hellhound on My Trail."

Maybe it's not so surprising, then, that someone like Sabin, while still in his early teens, would find more solace in the murky imagery of the blues than in the more rigidly defined biblical perspective taught in his classes at Colorado Springs Christian School.

"The idea of angels and demons dates back way further than the Bible," says the 21-year-old musician. "I think it's just an innately human idea, this duality of things."

There's no scarcity of metaphorical angels and demons populating Sabin's forthcoming *Anthromusicology* album, his first for the Haunted Windchimes' Blank Tape Records. You'll find them in the slow Chicago-style blues of "Devil of Mercy" as well as the feverish yowl of the Captain Beefheart-worthy "Market of Sorrow."

The latter envisions a Satan-owned flea market where, as Sabin explains it, "nobody really knows why they're there, and nobody is really happy. And they're all buying stuff that they would *never* want, but they *have* to have it."

In other words, we have met the devil, and he is us.

"A lot of those songs were inspired by my experiences at CSCS, just watching people with their furious inner struggle to deny their demons and shun them from the rest of their psyche," Sabin says. "But a lot of the time, it's the dark parts of your brain that, once you focus on them, are actually really therapeutic."

Big as the Black Keys

Anthromusicology — for which Blank Tape will be presenting a CD release show at Stargazers on Dec. 14 — was recorded at Marc Benning's Hideaway Studios, which, true to its name, is located in the shadow of Pikes Peak, some 45 minutes west of Colorado Springs. Benning, whose production credits range from Drag the River to My Morning Jacket, had taken a four-year break from the music industry and was just getting back into it when he hooked up with Sabin.

The producer/musician's last client prior to going on hiatus was, in fact, My Morning Jacket, who came up to Hideaway to do writing and pre-production for its Top 10 *Evil Urges* album.

"After My Morning Jacket left the studio," says Benning, "I'd reached the point where I had played and toured so much that I wasn't enjoying music."

The hiatus came to an end this past May when Benning met the Haunted Windchimes' Mike Clark — who's recording his new Sugar Sounds project at Hideaway — and Conor Bourgal, who went on to serve as Benning's co-producer on *Anthromusicology*.

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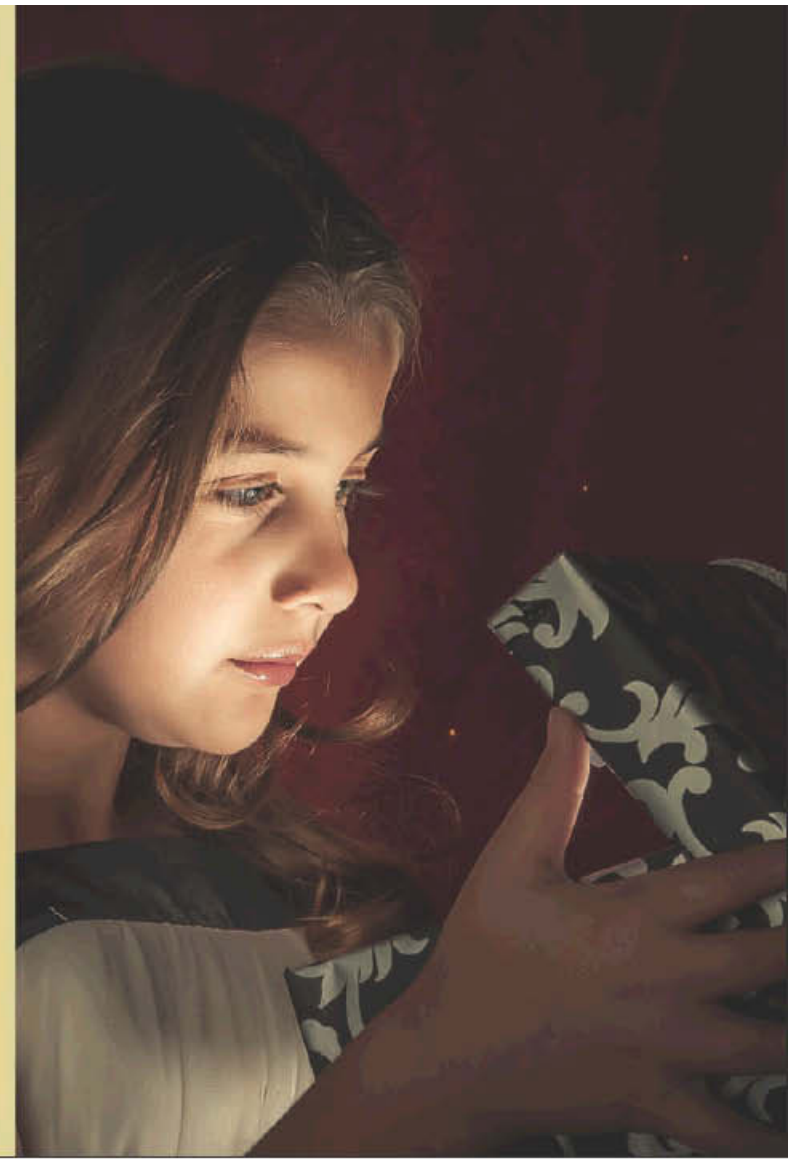

Kevin Ihle

Collective souls: A moment of camaraderie with Kings of Space cohorts (left to right) Grant Sabin, Sam Erickson, Daniel James Eaton and Alex Koshak.

Having been away from the music scene, Benning says he wasn't around for Sabin's formative years as a musician. "Which might be a good thing," he adds, "because I didn't have the image of a young blues guitar player guy in the back of my mind. I just kind of saw Grant as someone who had this big presence to put out there, that could be every bit as huge as the Black Keys."

For his part, Sabin lights up just thinking about Hideaway: "I wish my *dreams* were that good. There's two ponds, this beautiful house, a rec room, a movie theater, a beautiful studio, and just wonderful equipment. I wish I could work something out to live there after I die, and just haunt the place."

The backing musicians on *Anthromusicology* include key members of the Flumps, We Are Not a Glum Lot, and Briffaut, all of whom are part of the recently formed Kings of Space collective. Sabin is the most experienced of the bunch, having gigged professionally for the better part of a decade. His music is also the most obviously blues-inspired, dating back to his first gig at a now-defunct venue run by Big Jim Adam, winner of the Acoustic Blues Competition at this year's Telluride festival.

"It was at Jimbo's Bike and Coffee, and I played with Jim and his band," says Sabin, who was 13 years old at the time. "It had always just seemed to me like it was inevitable that I'd do this when I got older, like getting a driver's license. It wasn't like, 'Oh, wouldn't it be cool if that could happen.' It was like, 'This is something that *is* going to happen.'"

Sabin's parents probably sensed that even earlier. Grant was all of 2 years old when they videotaped him singing "Old McDonald" in a voice more suited to Howlin' Wolf songs than nursery rhymes. "That's the only voice that'll come out of me," says Sabin. "I've had a really smoky, husky voice since I was a really young kid. Even if I wrote a reggae song, it would probably come out sounding like a blues song."

Or maybe not. Sabin says his voice did smooth out a little as an adolescent, although it regained some of its gravelly texture once he started smoking. He's also been venturing into higher registers and a more controlled vocal style, thanks to collaborations with Briffaut's Daniel James Eaton, whom Sabin says has significantly influenced his recent songwriting.

As for his attraction to the guitar, that too has early origins. Sabin's father, who spends his days advising lawyers at the El Paso County Guardian ad Litem office, is also a devoted music enthusiast.

"My dad always had an acoustic guitar around the house, and I was intrigued by the sound of it," recalls Sabin. "I used to go up to his guitar when I was a little kid and put all my favorite toys in the sound hole. And then he'd pick it up and there'd be all this stuff rattling around in it."

While Sabin has yet to fully embrace the John Cage approach to prepared instruments, he and his dad continue to experiment with guitars. A few weeks ago, they finished building a nine-string guitar out of scrap metal and wood from lumberyards. With its steel body and wooden resonator — as opposed to the aluminum ones used on conventional dobros — it's undeniably unique. And if you've never heard of a nine-string guitar, you're definitely not alone.

"As far as I know there *aren't* any, other than that one," says Sabin "Although Leadbelly used to take the top six strings off his 12-string guitar, and he'd replace them with three really thick strings. Sometimes he'd even use piano wire to get a really deep sound, and then he'd tune it down to C."

The hand-made guitar is already influencing Sabin's musical approach, as unfamiliar instruments often will. "So I've been writing on it a bunch, and I think most of the stuff on the next album will be on the nine-string."

While he started out playing trumpet in his school band — and still plays the instrument today in Clark's Sugar Sounds and as an occasional onstage guest with the Flumps — Sabin's focus largely shifted to guitar once he began taking lessons as a teenager with local folk musician Paul Whitens.

"He taught me all of the basics of the guitar, and then one day he fired me," he says with a laugh. "He was like, 'You can't come in here anymore, Grant. We can't keep doing these lessons, because every time you come in here, we just end up jamming. You should go talk to John-Alex Mason and actually *learn* something."

Over the next three months, Sabin took just three lessons from Mason. "And they were probably the most important lessons that I ever had in terms of developing my style," he says of his encounters with the acclaimed bluesman, whose passing last year at age 35 dealt a devastating blow to the local music community.

Mason took a minimalist approach to both teaching and playing, says Sabin, with the lessons focusing on the fingerpicking style pioneered by Delta blues artists like Mississippi Fred McDowell. At the same time, Mason refused to instruct him on how to imitate his teacher.

"The blues is such a personal thing," figures Sabin. "And if it becomes something that *isn't* personal to you, then it's not the blues. I think that's kind of what's happened to the blues industry.

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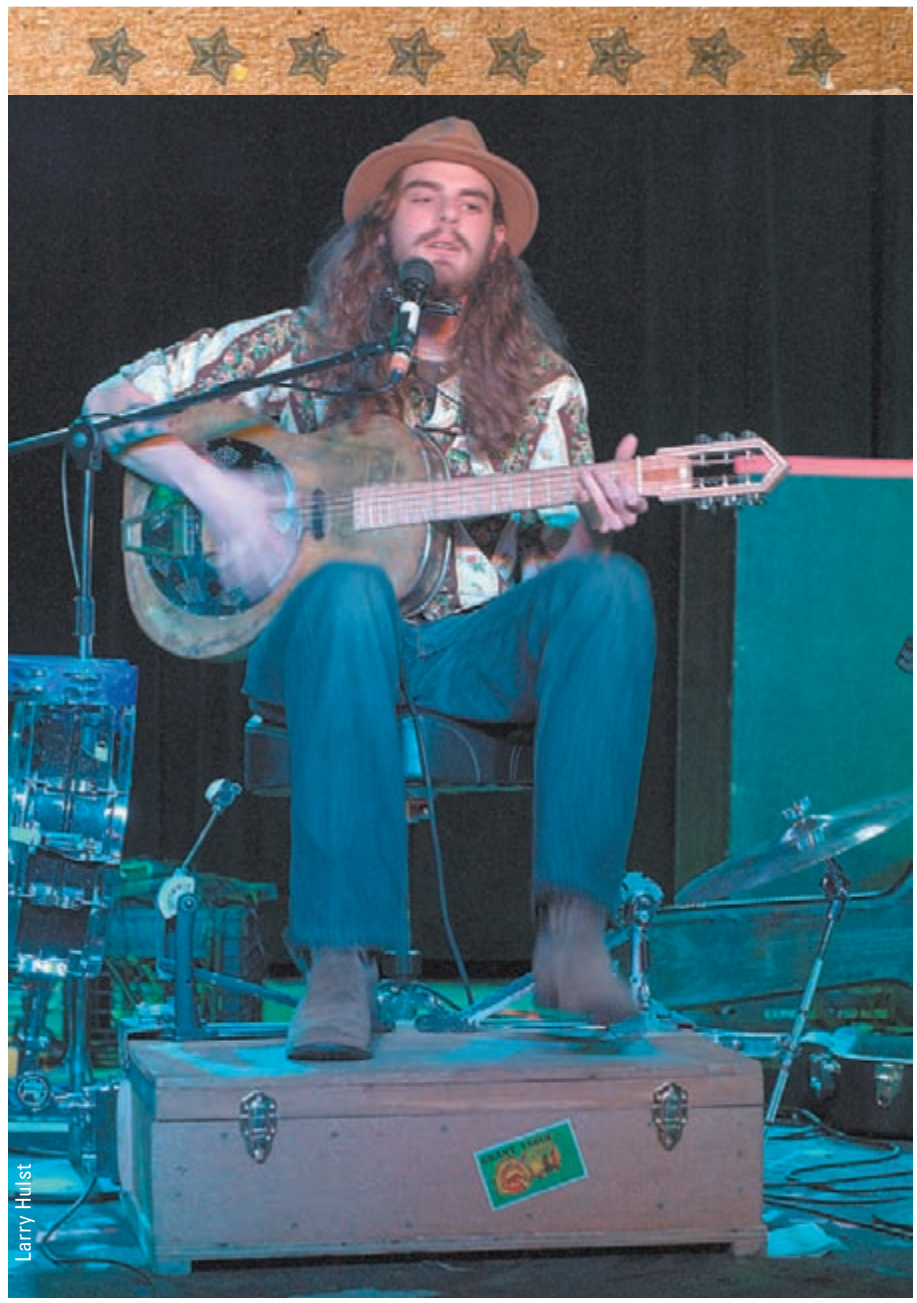
Larry Hulst

'I feel like there's an actual crisis shortage of venues in Colorado Springs.'

And I'm sure John was aware of that when he was teaching me."

HOMESICK *blues*

While musicians naturally tend to view their latest work as their best, Sabin is justified in feeling that way about *Anthromusicology*. "I consider it my first album," he says, even though it's his third. "I put out a CD called *Listen and Learn* when I was 16, and then I put out *Cold Day in Hell* a year or two later."

After that came a couple of EPs Sabin would just as soon forget. "I put out this total flop thing called *The Smoke EP* that was done with a friend of mine in California. We just tried to get rid of that as soon as we could, and didn't reprint it."

Last year's *Homesick* EP was also a bit of a miss, although it does contain a ragged recording of "Hard Hearted," which remains a highlight of Sabin's live repertoire.

"I literally didn't know that was gonna be a record at all," says Sabin, who went into a studio to check the facilities out with some musicians he was working with at the time. "We ended up playing some songs and then stuff was added to it — some stuff while I was there and *with* my knowledge, other stuff while I *wasn't* there and without my knowledge."

So while live performances made it clear that Sabin has been steadily evolving as an artist, his recording trajectory shows a much more sudden leap. Sabin's Blank Tape debut is like the audio equivalent of the moment when *The Wizard of Oz* goes from black-and-white to color. Benning, who also plays bass on the album, gives Sabin's work a wide-screen sound that doesn't lose the more primal qualities that first brought the songs to life.

The album also benefits from arrangements Sabin worked out with frequent onstage collaborator and Flumps drummer Alex Koshak. "The magic really happened between Alex and Grant," notes Benning. "I mean, we used a lot of old microphones and created a good recording atmosphere, but those guys worked their butts off. They did a phenomenally great job preparing. They showed up and looked at each other and just nailed the songs. Every song was done in two takes, which is like, in my recording experience, impossible."

Another important player was 17-year-old Sam Erickson. As frontman for We Are Not a Glum Lot, his work has tended to lean more toward Mogwai's post-rock explorations, mixed with Weezer's indie-pop inclinations. So when the guitarist joined Sabin onstage at Florence's Americana Music and Arts Festival, and delivered a remarkably soulful extended guitar solo, it was something of a revelation.

"Yeah, I was shocked the first time

I played with Sam in my own project," agrees Sabin. "You know, I'd seen We Are Not a Glum Lot countless times and I definitely respect him as a guitar player. But I never expected to see what came out of him when he played more blues-based music. It's just totally natural for him."

At that same music festival, Sabin performed a blistering rendition of Johnson's "Hellhound on My Trail," a throwback to the days when his sets were still packed with covers of old blues songs. These days, he barely does any covers live, although he does tend to segue into a version of the Staple Singers' "I'll Take You There" during performance of his own "Even to You."

"It's because the chord progression is very similar and the guitar is also kind of similar," says Sabin of the album's most uncharacteristic song, which strays far afield from gutbucket blues into smoother soul terrain. "So for anyone who's listening to us and thinking, 'That's kind of like "I'll Take You There," we'll play it for them, just to acknowledge that *we* know that *they* know."

UP ON *the roof*

Performing almost entirely original music — which is something all the bands in the Kings of Space collective do — isn't necessarily a lucrative endeavor, especially in a modestly sized city.

"I feel like there's an actual crisis shortage of venues in Colorado Springs," says Sabin, who took part in organizing *Let It Be*-style rooftop concerts — complete with elaborate painted backdrops by Kings of Space visual artist Cole T. Bennett — while living in a Tejon Street house next door to Shuga's Restaurant.

"Me, Alex and Dan used to live in that house, but we all moved out of there a couple months ago, and just found really cheap situations to go to. I'm living with my folks, actually, because we're getting ready to do a lot of touring next year."

It was Sabin and his cohorts' DIY attitude that gave birth to the whole Kings of Space idea. With all the musicians attending each other's shows, joining each other onstage, and hanging out together, it only made sense to formalize a group identity.

"There were all these collaborations happening, and we just needed a name. A meme, I guess. It's funny when people — not that it happens often or anything — but when people ask how *they* can get in on the Kings of Space thing. And it's like, I don't know, if you *happen* to start hanging out with us all the time, and you *happen* to start being a part of these things just naturally, then you *will* be in the Kings of Space. It's not like we're gonna initiate you or give you a special hat or make you learn a secret handshake."

And while there'll be no casting call for a new King, Sabin does feel that he and his cohorts will continue to evolve.

"Just as when you pick up a new instrument, whenever you play with new people — or new feelings, or with a new intention behind it — it's crazy how many things can change. So if we added one more guy that was putting out all these crazy ideas, the music could do a complete 180 really quickly."

As for his own evolution, the future looks wide-open right now. After years of creationist Christian schooling at what Sabin describes as a "brainwashing facility," he's begun taking courses in biology and anthropology at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. "Learning about our evolutionary trajectory gave me a whole new outlook on humans and why we do everything we do."

> *'The music could do a complete 180 really quickly.'*

In fact, those studies inspired "Letter to an Old Mirror," which in many ways is *Anthromusicology*'s most personal song. It was written in the immediate aftermath of a dream Sabin had on his 21st birthday.

"I'd been thinking a lot about how the cells in our bodies are regenerated every seven years, so that you're a completely new person made up of completely different particles. So I thought about the fact that I was now entering my fourth body, and how I'd been born and died three times already."

Sabin's subconscious took care of the rest, crafting a scenario as strangely symbolic as the best old blues songs.

"In this dream I had, I was walking down train tracks and eventually went into this railroad car, where I saw in the mirror all the different versions of myself that had existed in the past. And I'm very young, so most of them are kids. I mean, the last one was 14, the one before that was 7, and the one before that was an infant. So just seeing all these different versions of myself made me realize how much we all change."

And, perhaps, how much we remain the same. "I would say that even those early blues guys — who probably *were* religious and who maybe believed that in a way, it *was* possible to sell your soul to the devil — they were poets who had a basic understanding that these were really descriptions of things we all actually face in life."

So while Sabin may have developed a strong distaste for dogma, he's still fascinated by the mysteries that religious doctrines seek to explain: "It's like the way a song sometimes just chooses *you*, where you're channeling something that enters you and possesses you in a way that's *raw*. It's like a question mark, and it doesn't tell you what it should sound like or anything. And it's up to you to fit the pieces together."

— bill@csindy.com

CAPSULE

***Anthromusicology* CD Release Show, with the Grant Sabin Band, Haunted Windchimes, Chimney Choir**

Friday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m.

Stargazers Theatre & Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive

Tickets: $20 (includes copy of CD), all-ages; for more, see stargazerstheatre.com.

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Seven Days to Live

5 WEDNESDAY holiday

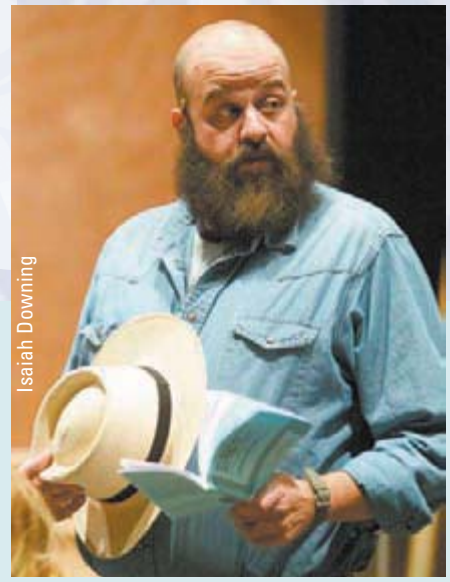
What does a running store have in common with a Mexican restaurant? How about an Irish pub and a furniture and accessories store? Still nothing? Well they really don't have that much in common, except the annual **Holiday Stroll Downtown** (tinyurl.com/cbj9j4j), in which more than 40 restaurants and shops between Boulder Street and Colorado Avenue along Tejon Street will pair up to let you experience true holiday spirit while you snack and shop from 5 to 8 tonight. Along with the free food and drink, expect plenty of live music, carolers, face painters, balloon artists, and prizes. **— *KL***

6 THURSDAY film

"My goal is to bring humor into fine art," says Wayne White in the trailer for the new documentary ***Beauty Is Embarrassing***, which chronicles his journey to art-world stardom. White, who started off as a cartoonist in New York City and became a designer for *Pee-wee's Playhouse*, has since gone on to create iconic pop-culture art with a comedic edge: As he says, "I've worn a lot of different hats." *Beauty* will play for free at the **Tim Gill Center for Public Media** (315 E. Costilla St., tinyurl.com/bu6m86a) at 6 and 8 tonight. With a 92 percent approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes, it could be good! **— *CW***

7 FRIDAY art

My grandma and I love mincemeat pie for the holidays, though it comes with a side of disdain from the rest of the family. But what's a tradition without its quirks, right? Locally, the **Modbo** (17C E. Bijou St., themodbo.wordpress.com) has cultivated quite a tradition with its ***Fifth Annual Small Works Show***, an exhibit and sale featuring affordable artwork no larger than two feet in any direction. The show, hung floor to ceiling at both the Modbo and neighboring S.P.Q.R., opens tonight with a reception starting at 5:30. For something funkier, head to **Marmalade at Smokebrush** (219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, smokebrush.org) for ***Chriszaihamankus***, a group show featuring works by the Smokebrush crew and other local artists. Tonight's opening reception, starting at 6, features a short play, performance art, live music and "special appearance by the Two-Headed Santa." **— *EA***



Isaiah Downing

Have a seat

TheatreWorks' *You Can't Take It With You* invites audience members to family dinner

Eating with a family other than your own is an iffy proposition. Sometimes you wish they would just adopt you already, and sometimes you're sent running in the opposite direction.

But what happens when you're stuck with them, love or hate, bound by marriage?

You Can't Take It With You introduces one such incidence with the Sycamores and the Kirbys, two disparate families brought together by the star-crossed love of their recently engaged children.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning play opened on Broadway in 1936 and played for more than 800 performances, a record at the time. Written by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, and now being staged by TheatreWorks, it's a fine addition to the holidays, says director Geoffrey Kent. "TheatreWorks likes to have a play with a holiday feel, but not necessary a Christmas classic," he says. "It's impossible to watch this one without smiling."

You Can't Take It With You could be pegged as a dysfunctional family comedy, and it's true that the Sycamores aren't what you would call a "normal" family. But Kent insists they're actually quite functional; they merely show a rare collective zeal for life. Mrs. Sycamore might be writing another of her plays while Mr. Sycamore is making fireworks in the basement, and their daughter, Essie, is practicing ballet.

"We all have a passionate artist in our families that pursues what they love, even if it's not the right, or smart, thing," says Kent. "But this is a family where every single member falls into that category."

The visiting Kirbys are a direct contrast: They're proper and formal; made uncomfortable by the kind, loving nature of the Sycamores; and living lives devoid of little hobbies and pleasures.

Casting was Kent's biggest challenge, but he found actors from the Springs and Denver who are "honest clowns."

"We're trying to balance comedy with reality," he explains, "so that it doesn't become a caricature of itself."

David Barber's sets will resemble the interior of a 1930s-style New York City brownstone, which Kent says will be "welcoming and warm." With seats on three sides of the stage, and the fourth side thrust toward the audience, you essentially find yourself at the table.

Which, actually, dovetails nicely with the play's title and message.

"You have to live life for today, because you don't know what tomorrow is going to bring," says Kent. "It encourages the audience, when they go home, to pick up that violin, or sketchbook, and spend a little time with it, because that's what makes life worth living."

— *Celine Wright*

CAPSULE

You Can't Take It With You

Dec. 6-23; Wednesdays-Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.; also Saturdays, 2 p.m., and Sundays, 4 p.m.

Dusty Loo Bon Vivant Theater, 3955 Regent Circle

Tickets: $35, $15 for kids 16-and-younger; for more, call 255-3232 or visit theatreworkscs.org.

7 FRIDAY

8 SATURDAY holiday

Being a cash-strapped student in Strasbourg in the dead of winter has its drawbacks — howling winds, German tourists, heartbreakingly expensive espresso — and distinct advantages. The primary one, of course, is that you're in Strasbourg. A close second is the winter market that pops up next to the trolley station every Tuesday, transforming the plaza into a cheapskate's playground full of imported handicrafts (souvenirs for the folks), homemade orchard preserves (hostess gift for your next soirée), and artisan cheeses (lunch). Someone at the Colorado Farm and Art Market had a similarly misspent youth, because they're touting today's **Winter Market** at the **Margarita at PineCreek** (7350 Pine Creek Road, farmandartmarket.com) as a European holiday extravaganza. Go between 10 and 3 for all the handicrafts, preserves and cheeses you can handle, but probably no German tourists, *merci bon dieu*. **— *CAS***

9 SUNDAY holiday

While **ice skating** in Central Park is a big deal in the Big Apple, I prefer the smack-dab-in-the-heart-of-the-city atmosphere of Bryant Park's rink, a temporary setup tucked amid 100-some pop-up holiday boutiques. It's in this vein that I have high hopes for the first-ever **Acacia Park ice rink** (115 E. Platte Ave., downtown80903.com). Today's the final day of a short nine-day run, so don't miss out on the free opportunity to test your pirouette between noon and 8. Bring your own skates or borrow them from the police substation. Donations will be accepted to help fill the Empty Stocking Fund, and local food trucks will be on hand to help you fill your belly. **— *KA***

10 MONDAY science

Your eyesight is going to get worse — it's a certainty. Maybe not right at age 42, when it commonly begins, but by 51 most all of us will enjoy the blurry results of presbyopia. Of course, I've been a glasses-wearing fool since fifth grade — christened, on their first day on my nose, by a soccer ball to the face — so no worries here, but you might want to know more. In that case, **Jack Quinn Irish Alehouse & Pub** (21 S. Tejon St., csscp.org/csscienceontap) will host the Colorado Springs Science Center Project's Science on Tap talk **"Vision and Vision Loss: Understanding the Process of Aging,"** by Dr. George Ulrich, at 6:30 tonight. Admission's free. **— *BC***

11 TUESDAY music

Any friend of Ray Parker Jr. is a friend of mine. I loved his *Ghostbusters* theme song so much in 1984 that I picked up *Ray Parker Jr.: Greatest Hits*, which happened to be filled with songs completely bewildering to a 7-year-old. (Sample lyric from "Bad Boy": "Break out the leather, baby / Spank me, whoop me, let me come back home.") This all comes rushing back because Parker guested on **Dave Koz**'s *Hello Tomorrow*, iTunes' Best Smooth Jazz Album of 2010. Of course, Koz's accomplishments stand on their own: 12 albums, seven Grammy nominations, an 18-year-running radio show. But if I'm going to the **Pikes Peak Center** (190 S. Cascade Ave., pikespeakcenter.com, $45-$65) to see Koz at 7:30 tonight, it's with hopes that the "Bad Boy" will be making a surprise appearance. **— *KW***

Contributors: Edie Adelstein, Kirsten Akens, Bryce Crawford, Kiki Lenihan, Claire Swinford, Celine Wright and Kirk Woundy.

TRACK CHANGES

As roller derby evolves, the Springs welcomes its first all-men's team

By day, Daniel Duffy is your typical 38-year-old insurance adjuster. By night, he morphs into Bangers 'N' Smash, skater and chief financial officer/vice president of marketing and relations for the Mountain Mad Men, Colorado Springs' first all-men roller derby team.

Duffy and his teammates will see their very first bout this week — and the state will see its first all-men roller derby — when the Mad Men take on Colorado's other team, the Denver Rolling Bones, at Big House Sports Arena on Vickers Drive.

If you're familiar with women's roller derby, which the Pikes Peak Derby Dames brought to town in 2005, you may wonder if the men's version is identical. The answer is no: Duffy says that women's derbies tend to be more strategic, while the men's "is about, 'Let's race and race and race and beat people down' — much more physical. Both are interesting in their own right."

When television helped popularize roller derby in the late '40s, teams were actually co-ed. In the '70s, it became highly theatrical, à la pro wrestling, and audiences soon rejected the spectacle. In the early 2000s, women stepped back into the rink and evolved derby into the game commonly seen today, on a flat track, featuring real hits and points accrued when a designated member of one team passes members of the opposing team.

The majority of the Mad Men were actually teammates on the co-ed Rocky Mountain Riot. But, Duffy says, "We knew if we wanted to get some real skating time, we had to make our own team." In October 2011, the Mad Men were born, and they've since been practicing, recruiting members, and skating with other men's and co-ed teams.

Although women's derby is more popular, Duffy is certain that the male faction will become as prominent: "Everybody loves it; it's fresh." Next year, the Mad Men hope to have a complete season, and become a member of the Men's Roller Derby Association, which offers benefits like insurance and a nationwide championship. He also hopes to recruit more men (who are 18 or older) for the team.

"We can take you from never putting skates on to bout-ready," he says. "It takes time and dedication, but we get people from all walks of life."

— *Kiki Lenihan*

CAPSULE

Mountain Mad Men vs. Denver Rolling Bones

Saturday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.

Big House Sports Arena, 2660 Vickers Drive

Tickets: $10/adv, $12/door; for more information, visit mmmderby.org.

4Play

Other options to get you excited about your week.

Backup plan
Deck the Hall, 7:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 7 at the Pikes Peak Center

Before you know it
Lunch Beat Colorado Springs, Dec. 12 at GOCA 121

Potato pick
In Vogue: The Editor's Eye documentary premiere, 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 6 on HBO

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Appetite

Bountiful blossoming

Breakfast and lunch get done right at the Bistro

By Bryce Crawford

Right now, the Bistro is a disjointed mix of the old, the new and the coming-soon.

The signs in the former Conway's Red Top parking lot are the first giveaway: One says, "The Bistro, Welcome, Breakfast, Lunch," while the other still sports the familiar spinning top of the now-defunct local hamburger chain. Inside, the red and green paint paired with the restaurant's seasonal effects suggest an unhealthy Christmas obsession. Meanwhile, the fact that you can buy Krispy Kreme Doughnuts at the counter, delivered fresh from Denver daily, is advertised as loudly as the "half price omelettes and homemade soups."

But despite all the above, and the feeling of eating in a one-room cafeteria at the senior center, I've got nothing but love for the Bistro. Owned and operated by the Houston family, they of the neighboring North End Diner, the restaurant delivers even more than it seems to promise.

Take the Maryland Crab Po-Boy ($11.95), which we all know could be a dicey proposition in a place like this. Instead of some soggy ball of bread-crumbs on toast, though, out come two plate-filling buns full of mildly spiced, crab-laden patties that are as delicious on their own as on the bread. They even outshine the crinkly sweet-potato fries, which aren't that flavorful anyway.

Instead, get the onion rings, because those onion rings are *right*; like the juiciest onion slice found the thinnest corn dog-style batter and decided to make it happen in hot oil. Our onions never came slithering out on the first bite, and we never needed anything to dip them in.

For you morning types, the Belgian waffle ($7.45) has a lovely vanilla crunch that's going to go nice with whatever hot fruit you pile on — the cinnamon apples are excellent — while, on the other hand, our French toast ($4.95) was a little thin, flat in flavor and, like the waffle, offensively topped with a gross maraschino cherry.

Those in the mood for neither would do fine with the huevos rancheros ($8.75), a messy bit of beans, tortilla, gorgeously gooey fried eggs, lime and peppers in a medium-spicy green chili. (Grab a tender pork tamale for $3.50.)

In an interesting culinary diversion from the norm, a teriyaki-beef noodle bowl can be had for $9.50. Unfortunately, ours featured meat that was more gristle than good, while the noodles had been cooked to a soft death; don't miss the golden-and-glistening homemade egg roll, though.

Maybe stick with the sandwiches, which, as the po-boy proves, are damn big, if a bit back-and-forth. For instance, the grilled-chicken panini ($9.50) — two big sourdough triangles full of cheese, peppers and black olives — looks mighty tasty but comes off meek. But a Reuben ($9.50) that takes the unusual approach of triple-decking the lightly toasted dark rye, then seemingly under-filling it with corned beef, Swiss and sauerkraut, still rocks a tangy, buttery punch.

Basically, through it all, there's the concerted feeling that, "Hey, these guys are trying." It's the house-made stuff. It's the meat from Ranch Foods Direct. It's the green olives and individual onion rings appended to the top of sandwiches as garnishes; the corn chips artfully upended in the huevos' beans; and the seamless service that neither disturbs nor disappears.

And if it's all a little crazy right now? Well ...

"We apologize for the confusion," reads a sign on the front door. "We are a new restaurant."

— bryce@csindy.com

Bradley Flora

Behold, the girth of the Maryland Crab Po-Boy.

CAPSULE

The Bistro

1228 E. Fillmore St., 368-7084

Daily, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SIDE Dish

Culinary crumbs & gastronomic gossip

Dreamweavers

Yes, I'm going to talk about the folks at Gotta Love It! Market (gottaloveitmarket.com) again. It's totally their fault, not mine.

We told you back in September how the business had moved from Colorado Avenue to a larger location at 1625 W. Uintah St., Suite K, transitioning into more of a shared commercial kitchen and commissary hub than market. But now, co-organizer Jerry Downing has added a whole new element to the space with the formation of **Vision Foods**, essentially a co-pack facility (and separate LLC, for the record) that allows virtually anyone to bring a food product out of conception and into the marketplace.

Geoff Hyche of Blake's Ugly Dawg Salsa co-owns Vision Foods with Downing and uses the house equipment to bottle his product for sale at 14 Whole Foods locations, four Denver-area Tony's Markets and other specialty stores.

"We have set our sights on taking and building others' food-product dreams," says Downing. "Our equipment list has grown and has allowed us to help others produce their vision. [We're] just trying to build the local food base one small business at a time."

Downing references R.D. Sharp Yard Sauce, brainchild of a client who came by with a label sketch and recipe for a barbecue sauce that he'd dreamed of seeing in stores. Downing helped Sharp do everything from cost out jars and ingredients to create and print professional, market-ready labels with bar code and nutritional requirements. Days later, Sharp walked out of Vision with 56 cases of his sauce, ready to pitch retailers.

Other locals have been further along in their process, but still needed a co-pack facility from which to work. Vision provides an option closer than Denver. Plus, it's working to create contacts within area and national distribution chains. "It's about getting plugged into the right vehicles," says Downing. "There are around 140 independent grocery stores in Colorado [like neighboring Mountain Mama Natural Foods]. All these independent producers need to know is that it's not *that* hard to get your product into them ... I'd say if we play our cards right, Vision Foods will have to move out of here and into a much larger facility."

Two live brew

The prolific local brew blog, Focus on the Beer (focusonthebeer.com) celebrates its second anniversary this weekend with two special events that should make any ironic mustache bristle with anticipation.

First, from 5 to 11 p.m., Saturday, Trinity Brewing Co. (1466 Garden of the Gods Road) will host a **special anniversary tapping** with rare beers provided by the likes of Crooked Stave and Strange breweries. It's no cover charge, pay-per-beer.

Sunday, Front Range Barbeque (2330 W. Colorado Ave.) hosts a $50, six-course **Beer Bacon Breakfast**. It already has a waitlist, but you can view the menu online for further evidence of bacon's universal pairing power.

— Matthew Schniper

APPETIZERS

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Dine&Dash Quick takes on food and drink

Summit at The Broadmoor

19 Lake Circle, 577-5896, broadmoor.com

Early last year, I freaked out over a saffron-infused cocktail that remains on Summit's highly creative bar menu. And I can't help but do the same now in regard to the **Smokehouse** ($11.25), centered on bacon-infused Maker's Mark bourbon. Bartenders and co-creators Zach McCabe and Dennis Schuler originally considered a "fat wash" of foie gras into cognac, but instead opted for this piggy juice.

They mix the bourbon and bacon grease, then freeze the concoction; strain off the hardened fat; then add portions of Drambuie liqueur and brown sugar simple syrup, plus a key splash of pineapple juice, whose acid "busts up the bacon," says Schuler. The result is almost like an adult bacon iced tea, in my colleague's words, not overly smoky or sweet, but holding fire's breath beautifully in balance with swine sweat and faint herbal honey notes. Think that's weird? Ask Schuler about his buttered-popcorn-infused rum "movie time" drink. — ***Matthew Schniper***

McAlister's Deli

7170 N. Academy Blvd., 598-5900, mcalistersdeli.com

On a certain stretch of North Academy Boulevard, it's a battle of the national sandwich-slingers: Beaumont, Texas-based Jason's Deli versus Mississippi's McAlister's. I'm not ready to take sides, but McAlister's is clearly not a bad option.

Our meal started off with a warm, "Are you gonna be dining with us?" Staff then made sure we got stamps on our Tea Club card; got us drink refills once we sat down in the big cafeteria-like, pale-orange-and-green dining room; and sent us out the door with a clap on the back and a "Thanks for coming."

Before that last part, we were treated pretty right by a **McAlister's Club** ($6.99) and a **Spicy Southwest Chicken Griller** ($6.99). Both good-sized, the former came on soft, untoasted wheat bread with a nice honey mustard kick; while the latter did a great guac-chicken-corn-pepper-relish thing in a grilled, ciabatta panini. The sweet tea sings a perfect note, too. — ***Bryce Crawford***

The Point Sports Pub & Grill

1545 S. Eighth St., 473-1155, thepointsportsbar.com

You've probably driven by the Point on some random day, on your way to or from an eye appointment, or a trip to the Cheyenne Mountain Library, or a splurge in Motor City. The little blue building has called out its "daily lunch specials," and you've thought, "Next time I drink, I'm going there."

So, do. You'll find *Golden Tee 2013 Live*, *Silverstrike 2009*, and jerseys from all the relevant local sports teams, as is appropriate, including the most original find around: a No. 19 Jerry Rice jersey from the few months he spent in training camp with the Denver Broncos in 2009. And on Wednesdays you'll also get to order the locally famous **fried-chicken plate** ($7.99). Our green beans were a little overcooked, our coleslaw a little too ranch-y. But the lumpy mashed potatoes, with a pool of yellow gravy, were spot-on, and the mild, crispy crunch of breaded drumsticks, thighs and half-breasts just beautiful. — ***Bryce Crawford***

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Film

Log jam

Deadfall (R)

By Jonathan Kiefer

To be sure of fully grasping *Deadfall*, I consulted my dictionary, which defines "deadfall" as, first, a trap poised with heavy weight; and second, a tangled mass of fallen trees.

Sissy Spacek: clearly just earning a check.

The movie is not falsely advertised: It's set among trees, with fallenness as a theme and tangledness as a narrative strategy, and it feels inescapably heavy.

Deadfall is a thriller from Austrian director Stefan Ruzowitzky, who won an Oscar for 2007's *The Counterfeiters* and now gets to make American-style shlock. It's also the first big break for screenwriter Zach Dean, and possibly an infuriating setback for other still-unbroken screenwriters who've disciplined themselves to work harder at avoiding clunky contrivance.

Somewhere in the woods of Michigan, sibling robbers Addison and Liza (Eric Bana and Olivia Wilde, respectively) find themselves and some stolen money in a car wreck. Thinking quickly and maniacally, Addison kills an intervening state trooper, leers possessively at Liza, and decides they should make a break for Canada, separately, on foot. Sure, why not?

Not far away, meanwhile, a one-time boxer named Jay (Charlie Hunnam) has just gotten out of prison and into trouble with his former trainer. Soon Jay, too, is on the run, toward the rural home of his adoring mother (Sissy Spacek) and unforgiving father (Kris Kristofferson). Along the way he meets and falls for Liza, who discovers his parents' address and lets Addison know to meet her there instead of Canada. Sure, why not?

Not far away, meanwhile, the slain trooper's colleagues mount a manhunt, from which the lone lady deputy finds herself excluded by a sheriff who happens to be her unforgiving father. And by now it has become obvious that Addison and Liza's father wasn't exactly forgiving, either.

In Ruzowitzky's hands it seems like Coen brothers for amateurs: a pile of money, a string of killings, a try for wry humor in grim situations, with characters both piteous and venerable on both sides of the law. The familiar structure — subplots in search of unification — can be rewarding, but it's like a house of cards, needing delicacy and skillful display. Here, every would-be sinister or suspenseful turn seems increasingly silly, and in sum unsatisfying. Striving ponderously toward its climactic Thanksgiving-dinner showdown, *Deadfall* just stages one implausible plot point after another, each ostensibly a pulpy twist but really an excuse for bland troubled-family backstory revelation.

Here's a sample exchange between Addison and a frightened little girl whose unforgiving father he's just killed:

"Are you gonna kill me?"

"No. You're a child. Children should be protected."

"Angels protect me."

"Well, maybe that's how you should think of me ..."

Then he kills someone else. "You're no angel at all," says the girl. "No, I am not," he replies. OK, glad we unpacked that.

The film could have been an actors' showpiece, but the actors haven't much to show. Hunnam knits his eyebrows to convey a tortured soul. Bana fakes a Southern accent and seems impervious to coldness (be it from snowstorms or psychopathy). And Spacek, Kristofferson and Wilde seem happy just to be paid.

Next time maybe less deadfall, more clear-cut.

— scene@csindy.com

RatingsWrapUp

	Indy	Hollywood Reporter	Rotten Tomatoes	Variety
Anna Karenina (R)	Wait for DVD	Wait for DVD	Enjoy	Enjoy
Deadfall (R)	Lame	Wait for DVD	Wait for DVD	Brilliant
Killing Them Softly (R)	Wait for DVD	Enjoy	Brilliant	Enjoy
Life of Pi (PG)	Brilliant	Enjoy	Brilliant	Enjoy
Lincoln (PG-13)	Brilliant	Brilliant	Brilliant	Brilliant

KEY: Brilliant · Enjoy · Wait for DVD · Lame

CineFiles

The Odd Life of Timothy Green (PG)

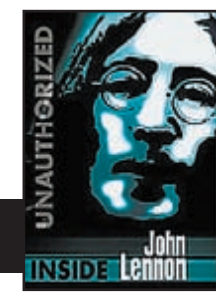
Walt Disney Co.

A quaintly literal-minded fairy tale constructed of syrup, cheese and just enough grown-up melancholy by a curious crew that includes delightfully oddball Peter Hedges (*What's Eating Gilbert Grape?*); scion of Invention, Ahmet Zappa; and John Toll (*Cloud Atlas*). If that assemblage suggests high quirk and deep passion, those expectations are set aside by Hedges' aggressively wholesome approach. Joel Edgerton and Jennifer Garner play a couple whose reproductive hopes have been dashed by science — but then lightning crashes and a boy springs from the Earth with leaves on his shins. Is it a cruel, supernatural prank or a teachable moment? Hedges and Zappa go wayward trying to be both. A tidy moral escapes this storybook, but like the Greens, the film is earnest enough about its emptiness to root for it anyway. ***— Justin Strout***

Burning Man (NR)

IFC Films

No, *Burning Man* is not a dreadlock-drenched flick set against the backdrop of the world's most pretentious music festival, but instead is an extremely gut-wrenching meditation on the death of your soul mate. Matthew Goode (*Watchmen*) gives it his emotional all as a chef who has no idea how to cope with his wife's death. He tries to use numerous sexual encounters as healing balm, and even self-inflicted harm and painful carelessness to feel anything other than this incredible grief from which there's no escape. All of this leads him down a darker road of anger and frustration, widening the gap between him and his 8-year-old son, as well as his successful restaurant and his employees. Told in a very disjointed, out-of-sequence way, *Burning Man*'s narrative is hard to keep up with at first, but with patience, it's an ultimately rewarding, yet wholly heartbreaking, experience. ***— Louis Fowler***



Inside John Lennon (NR)

Passport Video

A re-issue of 1993's *Inside John Lennon: An Unauthorized Biography* is, for the most part, a bottom-of-the-barrel affair for the fair-weather Beatles fan. Made up of public-domain footage, with recycled interviews and absolutely no Beatles music, it's very much the same Lennon story most of us have heard time and again. But(!) for Beatles completists, such as myself, it actually contains quite a few tidbits that tend to get skipped over in other docs, including John's sister Julia and her staunch defense of her mother (and indifference at the band's break-up), as well as a pretty defensive look at the rumors of homosexuality between Lennon and manager Brian Epstein. There are many better Lennon docs (*The U.S. vs. John Lennon*, *Lennon NYC*, for starters), but for the bargain basement price you can't get better than this primer. All you need is love ... and about $5, apparently. ***— Louis Fowler***

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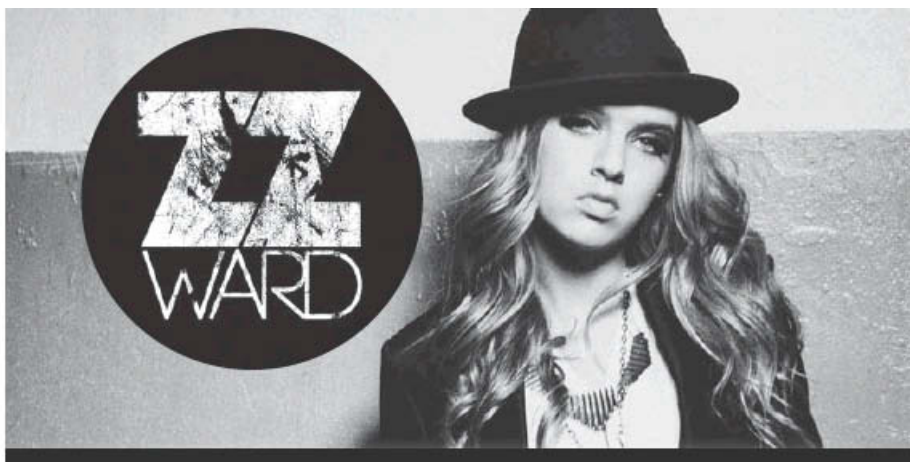

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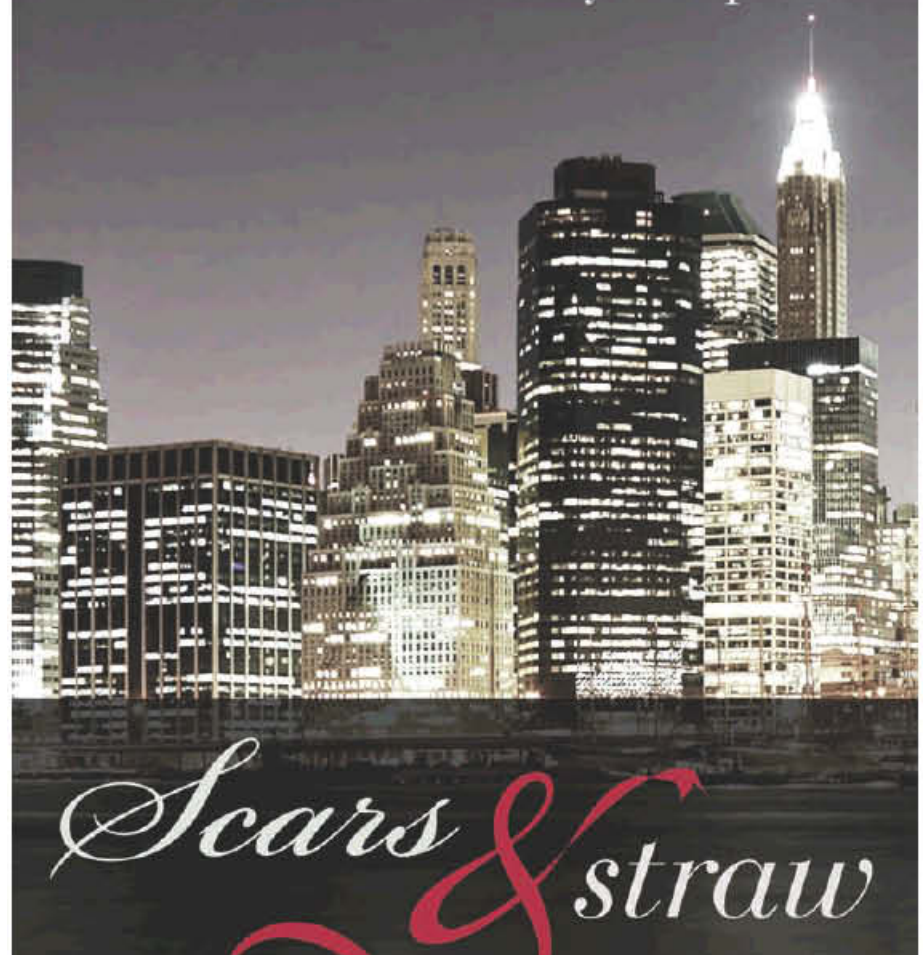

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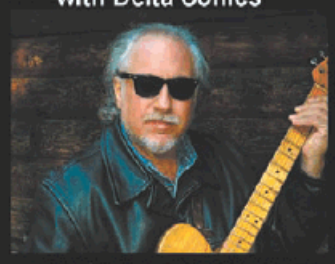
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12.22 R&B Holiday Extravaganza feat:
Ryan Toby//+21
12.28 IMPULSE FRIDAY feat:
DESIGNERDRUGS // JOMAN //Parrish//+18
12.31 NYE VARIETY SHOWCASE feat:
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AudioFile

Shining dirty

ZZ Ward becomes this year's overnight sensation

By Brian Palmer

With rootsy pop and celebrity assists, Ward's well on her way.

'She is going to be a star," declares NPR, and it just might be right. Up-and-coming hip-hop/soul/roots singer ZZ Ward has definitely made 2012 count: She released her mixtape *Eleven Roses* back in February, followed up with the *Criminal* EP in May, and made her full-length debut with *Til the Casket Drops* in October.

'It's fun, but it's also very surreal.'

Since then, she's appeared on Leno and released a live-in-studio video for "Save My Life," which finds Michael Fitzpatrick, who co-wrote the song with her, conspicuously featured on piano and backing vocals. It also doesn't hurt that her music has so far been featured on ABC Family's *Pretty Little Liars*, MTV's *Awkward* and in promos for ABC's *Nashville*.

Add to this the fact that hip-hop talents like Kendrick Lamar and Freddie Gibbs guested on *Casket* — and that she's coming to the end of a 50-date headlining American tour — and you could say it's been a dream year for her.

"This is the first year where I've played in cities that I've never been to, and yet I have fans there," Ward says. "They come out to the shows, they know the lyrics, and they've already connected with these songs. It's fun, but it's also very surreal."

Ward has been gradually working her way into the music scene since she was a teenager. Her dad fronts a blues band, and when ZZ was 13 he started letting her perform a song here and there to get her feet wet. Growing up in rural Oregon, her love of hip-hop and rap eventually took her to the nearby college town of Eugene, where she would sing choruses at underground hip-hop clubs for the likes of Bone Thugs-N-Harmony when they passed through. Despite these experiences, however, she struggled to reconcile her love of blues, hip-hop, soul and rock on a professional level.

"It took me a while to embrace the sort of music I wanted to make and just accept that making it for myself was enough," Ward says. "I just wanted to write songs that I loved. And so that's what I did on this record."

Ward's soulful vocals and lyrics on *Til the Casket Drops* echo the likes of Adele and Joss Stone, but also toss in dashes of Muddy Waters and Alicia Keys for good measure. It features 13 tracks that range from heartfelt ballads ("Last Love Song") to groovy up-tempo numbers ("Move Like U Stole It"). She also does bluesy songs like "Lil Darlin" that you might hear in some dive bar, and the funky hip-hop number "Charlie Ain't Home," which references Etta James's "Waiting on Charlie."

"It wasn't like I sat down and said, 'I should write a song called "Charlie Ain't Home" and it should be an answer to Etta James' "Waiting for Charlie"' or anything," Ward says. "I grew up listening to that song and there's just something really haunting about it to me. It's incredibly emotional. It really resonates. So I just felt really connected to the story behind that song, and decided to flip it a different way."

Somewhere along the way, Ward even acquired a nickname for her style and sound: Dirty Shine.

"It's funny, the phrase 'Dirty Shine' just kind of caught on," Ward says with a laugh. "It means shining dirty, being who you are, and rocking it."

— scene@csindy.com

CAPSULE

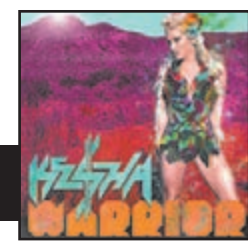
ZZ Ward, with A Silent Film, Yellow Red Sparks, Capital Cities
Sunday, Dec. 9, doors at 8 p.m.
Black Sheep, 2106 E. Platte Ave.
Tickets: $10/adv, $12/door, blacksheeprocks.com, 227-7625.

SoundAdvice

Rachael Yamagata
Heavyweight EP
Frankenfish Records

File next to: Sara Bareilles, Brandi Carlile

Indie singer-songwriter Rachael Yamagata has released eight albums and EPs in less than a decade. She's also collaborated with Ray LaMontagne, Jason Mraz and Ryan Adams, among others, and has firmly established herself as one of this generation's most diverse indie artists. Her latest release is a more subdued album than her previous efforts. In fact, the rock, piano pop and blues sensibilities that have permeated those other records are largely absent here. *Heavyweight*'s six songs are filled mostly with piano ballads, acoustic ditties, and shuffling numbers that focus on the ups and downs of love and relationships. Yamagata's gravelly-yet-resonant vocals on tracks like "Has It Happened Yet" mirror the inner strength she exudes in her songs, and the soulful ballad "It'll Do" sounds like something you'd hear in a smoky jazz lounge. All in all, this EP should whet fans' appetites for her next full-length offering. ***— Brian Palmer***



Ke$ha
Warrior
Kemosabe/RCA Records

File next to: Lady Gaga, Pink

Having made a big impact with her 2010 debut album, Ke$ha is clearly aiming to join Lady Gaga, Rihanna and Madonna as the next arena-filling dance-pop superstar. Working with a host of hit-making collaborators (Dr. Luke, Max Martin and Benny Bianco, to name a few), she's created a varied album full of roof-raising treats. The synth-heavy "Die Young" has a killer pop hook that should make it a huge single. On "C'Mon," she shows off rap chops with rapid-fire lyrics, while "Wherever You Are" and "All That Matters (The Beautiful Life)" are both disco-fied fuzzed-up electro tunes. Meanwhile, "Dirty Love" is a rousing, humorous and slyly sexy rocker with an assist from Iggy Pop. There's even a touch of the Strokes' kinetic rock and Taylor Swift's singsong melodies on the bouncy "Only Wanna Dance With You," adding a little unpredictability to an album that'll heat up charts and dance floors for months to come. ***— Alan Sculley***

CeeLo Green
CeeLo's Magic Moment
Elektra Records

File next to: Stevie Wonder, Outkast

CeeLo's Magic Moment just might be this season's most anticipated holiday album, if only because his eccentric persona makes it the least predictable. And as it turns out, he pretty much hits this one out of the park. Green does a really good Stevie Wonder with his version of "This Christmas" and brings a festive R&B bounce to "White Christmas." He rocks up "Run Rudolph Run" in fine style, and it's hard not to chuckle as he incorporates "Mahna Mahna" into his spunky tune, "All I Need Is Love" — with some help from the Muppets, no less. The only moment that falls short is "Baby It's Cold Outside." Yes, it's a showcase for the vocal abilities of Green and Christina Aguilera — his fellow judge on the TV show, *The Voice* — but the big, brassy arrangements that open and end the song make the rest of it sound staid. By and large, though, this album delivers the magic promised in its title. ***— Alan Sculley***

Beardo apocalypse!

New question: Is the end nigh for Americana?

By Chris Parker

It was kind of cute, at first — young guys playing old-man country. It was subversive, like trucker caps. Then, in the wake of the Soggy Bottom Boys and *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, it became a thing.

People in Brooklyn started doing it. It was an infestation.

Even now, five years after *No Depression* pulled the plug on its print edition, music blogs are still wallpapered with 20-somethings with scraggly beards and earnest eyes pretending to play the banjo and attempting four-part harmonies with widely varying levels of success. Or, in the electrified version, plaintively warbling over substandard takes on the Band, Neil Young and Johnny Cash. Even the bands that do justice to the style get lost like Waldo in a sea of red and white stripes.

"Every time I see a beardo band, I know what to expect. A beard is like plaid shirts in the '90s," says Southern Culture on the Skids guitarist Rick Miller. "Pretty soon, we're going to see fraternity guys with beards. I can't wait to see Justin Bieber with a beard."

One might've figured the Americana boomlet would have been ticketed and towed by now. It's been a dozen years since *O Brother*'s release, and the meter's surely expiring.

By Canadian alt-country artist Fred Eaglesmith's reckoning, it's only Americana's hair and fingernails that are still growing.

"The perception is that Americana continues, right?" Eaglesmith asks. "To me, it's already done. There's just nothing new to take its place. I promise you if there were somewhere else to go, these guys would jump like flies. I know because I saw them jump out of punk onto Americana. They say Americana was their one true love, but I saw them date other genres before this."

Perhaps one reason for the staying power of this stylistic tic is its connection to simpler times. (As if a time without dishwashers, online dating and pizza delivery could truly be considered "simpler.")

Let's ask Jay Farrar, who helped kick off the Americana renaissance in the late 1980s and early '90s with Uncle Tupelo, who eventually subdivided into Jeff Tweedy's Wilco and Farrar's Son Volt.

"Anybody can buy a computer for a couple hundred bucks," says Farrar, "which is great, it allows people to make music. But it can also make everything perfect in a way that wasn't available to them years ago. Perhaps the pendulum does swing back to music that does seem more authentic and has a few mistakes and emotion in it."

The sepia-toned flavor of the music can lend a hand lyrically, as well. Propped on its weathered shelves, what might come across as trite, hoary clichés are transformed into timeless sentiments; a misanthropic narcissist with bad dating habits can become the Marlboro Man with a tumbleweed heart. Yet just because it sounds like a murder ballad doesn't make it poignant, any more than vamping some gospel makes it inspirational.

But with no Next Big Thing in sight, Americana may yet live to see another day — even if one of its early architects admits it all felt a little fresher a while ago.

"That kind of music was not really fashionable at all; that's also what made it ultimately inspirational," says Farrar, who stops short of Eaglesmith's hard-line. "If I was just getting started now, I'm not sure if I'd share that perspective or not. "I still feel there's plenty of room for people to do whatever they do."

— scene@csindy.com

Call for PHOTOS!

IF ONE YEAR EVER CALLED OUT FOR A PHOTOGRAPHIC FAREWELL, 2012 IS IT.

From the Waldo Canyon Fire to the USA Pro Cycling Challenge to November's hard-fought election, the events and emotions of this year may best be captured in pictures.

So we're asking if you'll share yours.

They could be related to the events above, or other experiences we've shared — in arts, business, the environment, recreation, whatever. Our goal is to put together an end-of-year project that captures 2012 as it's looked to many people who lived it in the Pikes Peak region.

Submit your photos at least 5x7 and 200 dpi to newsroom@csindy.com by Wednesday, Dec. 19. Please include your full name. *(If you've got a really great shot and you aren't sure if it meets the size requirements, send it anyway. We'll let you know!)*

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2012

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REVERB

BY BILL FORMAN

It's not often I go to the same venue two nights in a row, but this past weekend was well worth it.

Let's start off with **Inelements**' Friday night performance at the **Black Sheep**. Colorado Springs' premiere alt-metal act tore it up during an incendiary set of originals at the **Rock for Sophie Valdez** benefit. Songs from ***Post Stress***, the band's 2011 full-length debut, were even more brutally brilliant live. The group also debuted a new song, "Star Crossing," that bodes well for an Inelements EP that's slated for early 2013 release.

The Mansfields are back with a new album.

Steven Huckaby, who grew up singing in a church choir, can shift from a soulful croon to a hellacious scream, while his bandmates splice more genres into a single song than most explore in the course of a career.

"We love our influences enough to try to emulate *all* of them," says the frontman, who rattles off favorites like **Glassjaw, Deftones, Blood Brothers, City and Color, Bad Rabbits** and **Amos Lee**. "We really try to put all of that in what we do. Both as a band and as musicians, we're always learning and discovering how to play and write what we want to hear."

Catch Inelements this Thursday at the new venue, **Rawkus**, where they'll headline **KILO's Loud and Local Throwdown**, along with seven other acts ranging from **Melting Temple** to **Malakai**. Details, including set times, at facebook.com/events/545759698772126.

OK, back to the Black Sheep. While at the Sophie show, I also ran into **Soda Jerk Presents** owner **Mike Barsch**, who was down here paying a visit to his very first venue. (He and his team now own and operate Denver's **Marquis Theater** and **Summit Music Hall**, as well.)

'Briffaut is Dan's baby. The Appolites is shared custody.'

Barsch shared obscure Colorado music trivia — **Munly** from **Slim Cessna's Auto Club**, it turns out, is a "rippin' hockey player" — talked about the club's commitment to booking local acts, and recalled how Soda Jerk had started out as a record label before it became obvious that tickets were selling better than albums. Mostly, it was just cool to meet someone in the music business who's actually into music, because that's never a given.

On Saturday, I headed back to the same venue to catch **A Black Day**, and am happy to say that the hip-hop collective's debut gig more than lived up to expectations raised by its new "Letter to the Non-Believer" track.

The set opened big with a full-on assault called "B.L.A.C.K. D.A.Y. (Why Stop)," and never let up. Between songs, the four well-pedigreed rappers (**Milogic** from **Sound Powered Engine**, **HoTT** from **Audible**, **Jayoin** from **Mad Trees**, and **Ahmad Mitchell** from **Fidel Redstar**) served up solo a cappella raps. Ahmad's, which was in French, was from a song by **Accumen**, his former group with **ReMINDer** emcee **Samir**, who was also in the crowd. The verse, he later told me, is basically about how he and Samir "paint with words and speak for all of those suffering and struggling."

Of course, this is also a group that comes up with lines like "Saw us onstage / Now she wants a black baby," so there's depth there. Upcoming A Black Day gigs include **Soul Sessions at the Zodiac** on Dec. 23, and a show with **DJ Abilities** at the same venue in March.

In other news, the **Mansfields** have quietly gotten back together for an Xmas album. *Ghosts of Christmas* finds the local gothabilly legends taking a whack at holiday chestnuts like "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town." Decked with jingle bells and tons of tremolo, the CD will be in local shops this week.

And finally, while you're counting the days between now and the **Grant Sabin** album release show (see cover story, p. 19), you can catch him playing in two other bands this week.

On Friday, he'll be performing with **Daniel James Eaton, Sam Erickson** and **Alex Koshak**. Yes, it's the **Briffaut** lineup, but they're calling themselves the **Appolites**, because they'll all be taking turns as frontmen.

"Briffaut is Dan's baby," explains Alex. "The Appolites is shared custody." The event is called **Live in Deep Space**, and will also feature performances by **Desirae Garcia, Luna Moth** and **Dear Rabbit**. The show will be held at 228 W. Cimarron St., with an 8 p.m. start time.

Then on Saturday, Grant will be playing in **Mike Clark's** band **Sugar Sounds** at a house concert fundraiser. Showtime is 6 p.m., address is 1002 Oxford Lane, and the suggested $15 donation will benefit the **Montessori Prep School**. Call 244-2445 for additional info.

Send news, photos and music to reverb@csindy.com; follow our updates at tinyurl.com/indyreverb.

PlayingAround

LIVE MUSIC: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5, THROUGH TUESDAY, DEC. 11

Wednesday 12/05

Club Q, *Open Mic Night,* 10 p.m.
Frankie's, *Open Mic (acoustic),* 8:30 p.m.
Front Range, *Dikki Du and the Zydeco Krewe (folk),* 7:30 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, *Crystal and the Curious (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *West Side Wednesdays, with Brian Parton (Americana),* 7 p.m.
Park East, *The Martini Shot Unplugged (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
R&R Coffee Café, *Oly-Solo Variety (acoustic),* 9 a.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Blues Jamm, with 99% (blues),* 7 p.m.
Stargazers, *Pikes Peak Blues Wang Dang Doodle (blues),* 7 p.m., donations accepted.
Thirsty Parrot, *Colorado Springs Big Jazz Band (jazz),* 6 p.m.
Twisted Knickers, *Bluegrass Jam with Banjo Bill (bluegrass),* 7 p.m.
Zodiac, *'80s Dance Nite, hosted by DJ Monster Mike (dance),* 9 p.m.

Thursday 12/06

Adam's, *Dave Tipton (acoustic),* 6:30 p.m.
Ancient Mariner, *Open Mic with Stolen Idol Productions (acoustic),* 8 p.m.
Benny's, *Open Mic with the Jerry Roskin Band,* 8 p.m.
Crystola Roadhouse, *Mike Nelson (blues),* 6 p.m.
Holy Cow, *Jay-Koh (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Brian Clancy (world),* 7:30 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *DeeJayBee & Tony G (dance),* 8 p.m., *Broken Spoke (indie),* 8 p.m.
Pale Horse, *Ladies Night, feat. DJ Fade (dance),* 9 p.m.
Park East, *Sarah Wood & Theo DeCenzo (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
Rasta King, *Robby Red Locks & the Reggae Time Machine (world),* 7 p.m.
Rasta Pasta, *Gary Morse Benefit Concert for the Senior Center (rock/pop),* 8 p.m., $5 donation.
Rawkus, *94.3 KILO Presents Loud and Local Throwdown (rock/pop),* 7 p.m.
Ritz, *DJ Ron Perry (dance),* 9 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Atomic Drifters (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.

Friday 12/07

Adam's, *Dave Tipton (acoustic),* 9 a.m.
Ancient Mariner, *Monkey Pie (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.
Benny's, *The Gr80's (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Black Sheep, *Never Shout Never, William Beckett, Anarbor (rock/pop),* 6:30 p.m., $20.
Broadmoor Academy of Music, *Friday Jazz Jam Session (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Cleats, *The Nocturnal Tomatoes (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Crystola Roadhouse, *J. Miller Band (Americana),* 8 p.m.
Cucuru, *Barbra Ernst/Mistura Bela (world),* 7 p.m.
Dale Street Café, *John Wise (blues),* 6 p.m.
Downtown Perk, *Stephanie Pauline (country),* 7:30 p.m., $4-$7.
Fujiyama, *Barbara Ernst/Mistura Bela*

VENUE DIRECTORY

Adam's Mountain Café, 934 Manitou Ave., #102, Manitou Springs, 685-1430
Ancient Mariner, 962 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5503
Benny's Restaurant & Lounge, 517 W. Colorado Ave., 634-9309
Black Sheep, 2106 E. Platte Ave., 227-7625
Bloom's Mill Hill Saloon, 1668 S. 21st St., 632-6932
Broadmoor Academy of Music, 1223 Lake Plaza Drive, Suite C, 576-3979
Cleats Sports Bar & Grill, 6624 Delmonico Drive, 548-8267
Crystola Roadhouse, 20918 U.S. Hwy. 24, Woodland Park, 687-7879
Cucuru Gallery Café, 2332 W. Colorado Ave., 520-9900
Dale Street Café, 115 E. Dale St., 578-9898
Downtown Perk, 14 S. Tejon St., 635-1600
Frankie's Bar & Grill, 945 N. Powers Blvd., 574-4881
Front Range Barbeque, 2330 W. Colorado Ave., 632-2596
Fujiyama, 22 S. Tejon St., Suite A, 630-1167
Holy Cow Pub & Grill, 5885 Stetson Hills Blvd., 465-1704
Jack Quinn Irish Alehouse & Pub, 21 S. Tejon St., 385-0766
Kasey's Bar & Grill, 1919 E. Boulder St., 635-8128
Margarita at PineCreek, 7350 Pine Creek Road, 598-8667
Marika's Coffeehouse, 739 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-4438
Meadow Muffins, 2432 W. Colorado Ave., 633-0583
moZaic, 443 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-1800
Oakley's Café & Bistro at Sundance Mountain Lodge, 1865 Woodmoor Drive, Monument, 481-6000
Pale Horse Bar and Lounge, 204 N. Union Blvd., 465-2005
Park East Restaurant, 720 Goodnight Ave., Pueblo, 719/565-6655
Penrose Room at The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 577-5773
Pikes Peak Brewing Co.,

Got a live music event readers should know about? Send us the band/musician, where they're playing and when (day, date and time), how much it will cost and a contact phone number — by Wednesday

(world), 7 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *DJ Rob G (dance),* 9:30 p.m.
Kasey's, *Friday Nights with DJ Panther (R&B),* 9 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *DeeJayBee (dance),* 8 p.m., *High Gear Daddies (Americana),* 9 p.m.
moZaic, *Bobby Jackson (jazz),* 5 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
Red Martini, *Dick Cunico (jazz),* 8 p.m.
Ritz, *DJ Tony G (dance),* 9 p.m.
Silver Tongue Devil, *Radio London (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
The Sky Box Lounge, *Jeff "Fitty" Smith (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Moses Jones (R&B),* 8 p.m.
Stargazers, *Christmas with "Mystro" Chuck Limbrick and Friends (jazz),* 7 p.m., $10.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.
Thirsty Parrot, *Cirque Du DeeJay (dance),* 9 p.m.
Townhouse, *Mike Nelson (blues),* 8 p.m.
Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, *Hammerstadt & Wendy Woo (rock/pop),* 7 p.m., $12-$18.
Triple Nickel, *The Hopeful Heroines, Roma Ransom, Mobdividual (folk),* 9 p.m., $3.
Ute Inn, *One Eleven (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance),* 9 p.m.
Wyatt's, *Rawbert (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Zodiac, *Axiom Trio, Argyle Gangsters (rock/pop),* 9 p.m., $5.

Saturday 12/08

Benny's, *Lipstick Voodoo (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Black Sheep, *40 oz. to Freedom (rock/pop),* 8 p.m., $10-$12.
Cleats, *The Nocturnal Tomatoes (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Dale Street Café, *John Wise (blues),* 6 p.m.
Fujiyama, *DJ Ron Perry (jazz),* 6 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Raygunomics (rock/pop),* 9:30 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *DJ Tony G (dance),* 8 p.m., *Seven (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Oakley's, *D Day Invasion (blues),* 8 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
Pikes Peak Brewing Co., *Pete Stein (rock/pop),* 7 p.m.
Ritz, *DJ Ron Perry (dance),* 9 p.m.
Silver Tongue Devil, *Fox Street All Stars (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Moses Jones (R&B),* 8 p.m.
Stargazers, *The Flying W Wranglers: Cowboy Holiday Concert (country),* 8:30 p.m., $15-$20.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.
Townhouse, *Slightly Bent Christmas Unlimited Toy Drive (rock/pop),* 8 p.m., bring a toy for a free beer.
Triple Nickel, *Nosebled, Creep Status, Tower (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance),* 9 p.m.

Sunday 12/09

Black Sheep, *RXP Alternative Christmas Bash, feat. ZZ Ward (rock/pop),* 8 p.m., $10-$12.
Bloom's Mill Hill, *Michael Smith and Oly (country),* 4 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Traditional Irish Session (world),* 3 p.m.
Retired Enlisted Association, *Blues Jam with the Tracy Quinn Band (rock/pop),* 3 p.m.
Silver Tongue Devil, *Karen Waldrup and Ashlee K. Thomas (country),* 8 p.m.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.
Tony's, *Sunday Shenanigans, with NateStarr and TaylorLee* (dance), 9:30 p.m.
Urban Steam Coffee Bar, *Acoustic Open Mic,* 1 p.m.

Monday 12/10

Crystola Roadhouse, *Rosalie and Mike (rock/pop),* 5 p.m.
Marika's, *The South Path Ramblers (rock/pop),* 6:30 p.m.
Shovelhead, *Shovelhead Blues Jam (blues),* 7 p.m.
Zodiac, *Open Mic hosted by Andrea Stone,* 7 p.m.

Tuesday 12/11

Adam's, *Wayne Hammerstadt (acoustic),* 6:30 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *John Austin Band (blues),* 7 p.m.
Rudiments, *Open Mic (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Thirsty's Tavern, *Jam Night (acoustic),* 8 p.m.
Townhouse, *Open Mic (acoustic),* 9 p.m.
Zodiac, *Goth Nite with DJ Johnny Coffin (dance),* 9 p.m.

Hip-hop's politically charged Public Enemy plays Denver's Ogden Theatre Dec. 8.

BigGigs

Never Shout Never, Black Sheep, Dec. 7 • **NOFX**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Dec. 7 • **John Tesh**, USAFA's Arnold Hall, Dec. 7 • **40 oz. to Freedom**, Black Sheep, Dec. 8 • **Eoto**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Dec. 8 • **Lamb of God**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Dec. 10 • **Corey Smith**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Dec. 13 • ***Anthromusicology* CD Release Show Celebration, with Grant Sabin, The Haunted Windchimes, Chimney Choir**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Dec. 14 • **Texas Hippie Coalition**, Black Sheep, Dec. 14 • **"The Acoustic Ninja" Trace Bundy & Josh Garrels**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Dec. 15 • **Bob Margolin, The Delta Sonics**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, Dec. 15 • **Craig Morgan & Phil Vassar**, Pikes Peak Center, Dec. 15 • **Boys Noize Live**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Dec. 18 • **Clutch, Texas Hippie Coalition**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Dec. 21 • **Krizz Kaliko**, Black Sheep, Dec. 21 • **The Beach Boys**, Pikes Peak Center, Dec. 28 • **Jimmy Hall, Kate Moss**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, Dec. 28 • **Elephant Revival**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Dec. 28-29 • **STS9**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Dec. 29-31 • **John Gorka**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Jan. 4 • **Father John Misty**, Black Sheep, Jan. 5 • **Reverend Horton Heat**, Black Sheep, Jan. 18 • **Blackberry Smoke**, Summit Music Hall, Denver, Jan. 19 • **Tribal Seeds**, Black Sheep, Jan. 23 • **Sea Wolf**, Black Sheep, Jan. 24 • **Switchback**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Jan. 26 • **The Toasters**, Black Sheep, Jan. 28 • **The Overseer**, Black Sheep, Jan. 30 • **Pennywise**, Black Sheep, Feb. 1 • **Kraddy**, Black Sheep, Feb. 2 • **Hatebreed**, Black Sheep, Feb. 5 • **The Growlers**, Black Sheep, Feb. 7 • **El Ten Eleven**, Black Sheep, Feb. 10 • **Carrie Underwood**, World Arena, Feb. 13 • **Savoy**, Boulder Theater, Boulder, Feb. 23 •

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12-5 ..... P.P. Blues Community Jam
12-7 ..... Chuck Limbrick Holiday Show
12-8 ..... Flying W Wranglers
12-12 ..... Hazel Miller / Dotsero
12-13 ..... Corey Smith - Country
12-14 ..... Grant Sabin CD Release with The Haunted Windchimes
12-15 ..... Trace Bundy - Acoustic Ninja with Josh Garrels
12-31 ..... New Years Eve/Martini Shot
1-4 ..... John Gorka
1-5 ..... Jake Loggins Band
1-10 ..... Thin air Jazz - CD Release
1-12 ..... Susan Rissman and Tribe
1-16 ..... Chuck Pyle - Songwriters Circle
1-18 ..... Whiskey Fingers Dance Party
1-19 ..... Nina Story and Wendy Woo
1-26 ..... Switchback / Celtic
2-16 ..... Yesterday- Beatles Tribute
2-17 ..... Michael Johnson Bluer Than Blue
2-23 ..... ZOSO- Led Zeppelin Tribute
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Rawkus, 3506 N. Academy Blvd., 596-0000
Red Martini, 25 N. Tejon St., 634-3522
Retired Enlisted Association, 834 Emory Circle, 596-0927
Ritz Grill, 15 S. Tejon St., 635-8484
R&R Coffee Café, 11425 Black Forest Road, 494-8300
Rudiments Café, 5863 Palmer Park Blvd., 434-5999
Shovelhead Saloon, 4130 U.S. Hwy. 85, 392-2665
The Silver Tongue Devil Saloon, 10530 Ute Pass Ave., Green Mountain Falls, 684-2555
The Sky Box Lounge, 2102 E. Bijou St., 634-4815
Sonterra Innovative Southwest Grill, 28B S. Tejon St., 471-9222
SouthSide Johnny's, 528 S. Tejon St., 444-8487
Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200
Tavern at The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 577-5772
Thirsty Parrot, 32 S. Tejon St., 884-1094
Thirsty's Tavern, 2028 Sheldon Ave., 444-8515
Tony's Bar, 311 N. Tejon St., 228-6566
Townhouse Lounge, 907 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1085
Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-0475
Triple Nickel Tavern, 26 S. Wahsatch Ave., 477-9555
Twisted Knickers Pub, 2405 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 633-1400
USAFA's Arnold Hall, 2302 Cadet Drive, 333-4497
Ute Inn, 204 W. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 687-1465
V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 635-9599
Wyatt's Pub & Grill, 806 Village Center Drive, 598-4100
Zodiac, 230 Pueblo Ave., 632-5059

at noon for the following week's paper. If we don't receive confirmation of ongoing events on a monthly basis, they won't run. Send to: livemusic@csindy.com.

I am for the child who has attended eight schools in four years. Because he's in foster care. Because his birth mother, debilitated by mental illness, neglected him. That is the child I am for. And because I am, he will be half as likely to languish in foster care, and that much more likely to find a safe, permanent home. I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer.

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Listings

PICK Indicates our recommendations for this week.

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION

ArtEvents

2012 ArtWalk, after-hours openings, demonstrations, celebrations and tours by Old Colorado City galleries and businesses, including: Cucuru, Hunter-Wolff, Velez and Range galleries as well as the Squash Blossom, Yobel Market and others. First Friday of every month, 5-8 p.m. Old Colorado City, 520-9494, bestartontheavenue.com.

Art in Storefronts, three installations at local empty storefronts: "Body Knowing Space Part 2" by Sarah Velez at 117 E. Bijou St.; "The Storefront Project" by Mary Vandezande at 121 E. Bijou St.; "Revival" by Amy Seltzer at 130 E. Pikes Peak Ave. Through Dec. 31. peakradar.com.

COPPeR Bootcamp: Sell (More of) Your Art, a chance to walk through the festival-art sales process with a panel of festival directors and experienced artists, including application tips and marketing advice. Wed., Dec. 5, 5 p.m. COPPeR (Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region), 121 S. Tejon St., #111, 634-2204, coppercolo.org.

An Evening With John Fielder, a slideshow and discussion from the Colorado nature photographer and the Palmer Land Trust. Sun., Dec. 9, 7 p.m. Free. CC's Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave., palmerlandtrust.org.

First Friday Art Walk event, a chance to make your own photo ornament ($5), as well as enjoy the work of Alfresco Images. Fri., Dec. 7, 5 p.m. $5. Verve, 2513½ W. Colorado Ave., 351-7030.

First Friday Art Walk — Pueblo, monthly art celebrations encompassing multiple galleries, a handful of coffee shops, the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center and other businesses. First Friday of every month, 5-8 p.m. Downtown Pueblo, pueblopag.org.

Milk Paint Seminar, a DIY class from Marian Parsons, founder of the home design site MissMustardSeed.com. Pre-register by calling the store or attending the free book signing on Dec. 7 from 5-7 p.m. Sat., Dec. 8, 9 a.m. to noon. $50. Shades of Amber, 125 Second Street, Monument, 265-9921, shadesofamberinc.blogspot.com/2012/11/miss-mustard-seed-in-colorado.html.

"Painting with Encaustics," a chance to make holiday gifts with melted, pigmented beeswax. All materials are provided. Sun., Dec. 9, 10 a.m. $95. Old Colorado City Encaustic Studio, 2818 King St., 694-6753, backdoordesigns.com.

PICK **Kreuser Gallery,** 218 W. Colorado Ave., 630-6347, abigailkreusergallery.com. *Iconic*, an exhibition of works by Tish Lacy Reed. Next door, in the AHA Gallery, find a show of paintings by Tylan Troyer. Opening reception, Fri., Dec. 7, 5 p.m.

ArtExhibits

Arati Artists Gallery, 2425 W. Colorado Ave., 636-1901, aratiartists.com. *Featured Artists*. Opening reception, Fri., Dec. 7, 5 p.m.

The Bridge Gallery, 218 W. Colorado Ave., thebridgeartgallery.com. *The Bridge Market*, the group's "cash-and-carry" exhibit of small works, jewelry, pots and more. In the Commons Gallery, find photographs by Michael Cellan and Peter Marchand in *Passing Thru Time and Space*. Dec. 7-22. Opening reception, Dec. 7, 5-8 p.m.

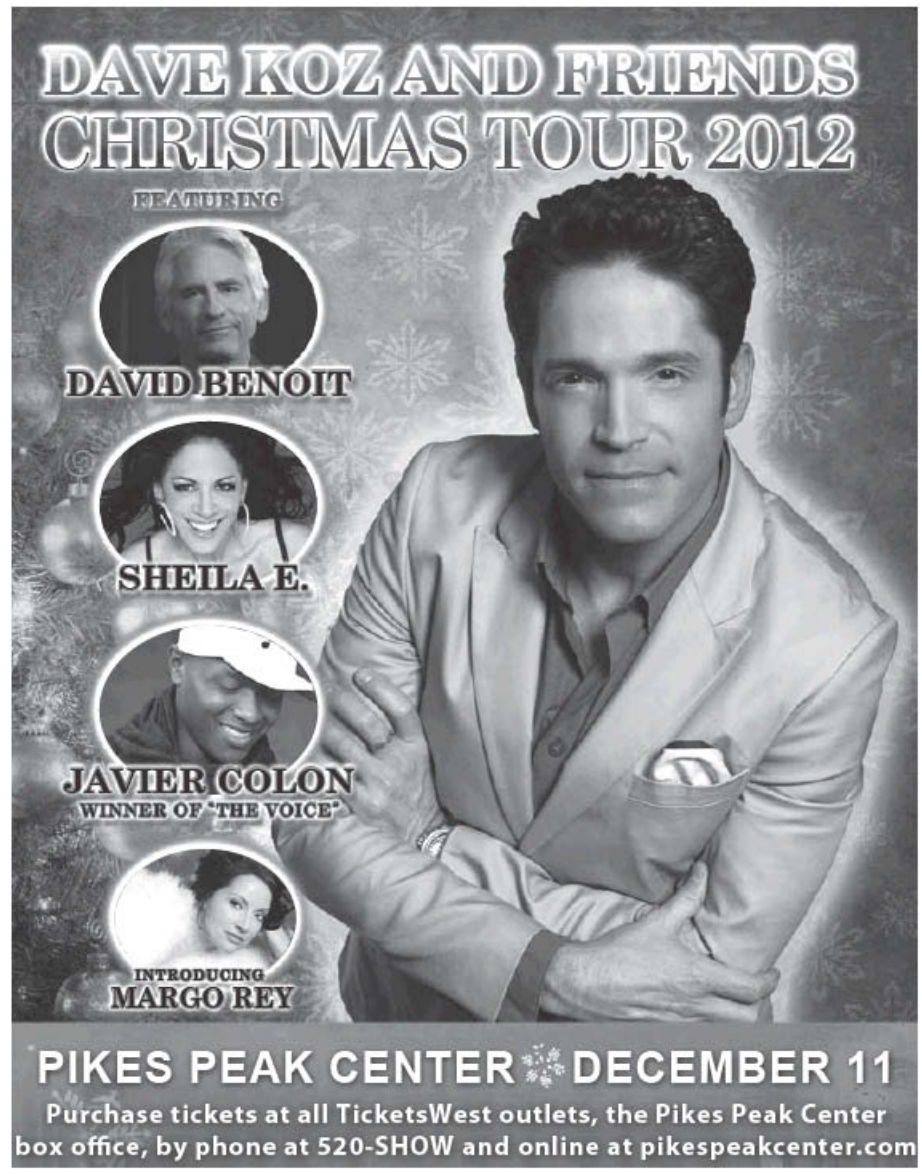
Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org. *The Artist's Studio*, an exhibit centering on "innovation, ideas, methods and materials from fine art adult educators," featuring works from instructors at local studios, community colleges, universities, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and the Business of Art Center. *BAC Annual Holiday Show,* a wide selection of works from BAC regulars in ceramics, painting, glass, prints and mixed media. *Dave Wyzenbeek: Recent Works,* an exploration of faith, self and the subconscious in monotypes and drawings from the Denver artist. All shows Dec. 7 through Jan. 19; opening reception, Fri., Dec. 7, 6-9 p.m.

Cheyenne Mountain High School, 1200 Cresta Road, 475-6110. *Faculty Exhibition*, featuring two- and three-dimensional works from the arts faculty of Cheyenne Mountain School District #12. Dec. 6-21.

City Administration Building, 30 S. Nevada Ave., 385-5905, greatscenicphotos.com. *Nature Photography*, an exhibition of local nature scenes from photographer Ricardo Villa. Twenty percent of all sales goes to benefit COPPeR. Opening reception, Fri., Dec. 7, 5 p.m.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, csfineartscenter.org. *A Mural in the Making*, a look at the process — through drawings, pictures, video and more — that two artists, Eric Bransby and Trevor Thomas, went through to create the museum's new mural. Through Jan. 6. *Floyd D. Tunson: Son of Pop*, a career-spanning exhibition of the works of longtime Palmer High School art instructor, and celebrated artist, Floyd Tunson. Through Jan. 20.

Commonwheel Artists Co-op, 102 Cañon Ave.,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Manitou Springs, 685-1008, commonwheel.com. *Commonwheel Artists Co-op Annual Holiday Market*, a show and sale of gift-able artwork by over 35 Colorado artists. Through Jan. 6.

Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, pikespeakwatercolorsociety.org. *Pikes Peak Watercolor Society*, an exhibition of works from the local organization. Dec. 7 to Jan. 8. Opening reception, Fri., Dec. 7, 5-8 p.m.

Cottonwood on Tejon, 214½ N. Tejon St., cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com. *Holiday Boutique*, an art show and sale, featuring pieces from Colorado artists, all under $100.

Gallery 113, 113 N. Tejon St., gallery-113.com. *Art Gift Show*, a show and sale of hand-crafted works, including jewelry, photographs, prints, paintings and more. Through Dec. 25. Opening reception, Fri., Dec. 7, 5-8 p.m.

Hayden Hays Broadmoor Galleries, 1 Lake Circle, 577-5744, haydenhaysgallery.com. *Colorado Artists*, a selection of new works from local artists. Dec. 6-31.

Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org. *Chriszaihamankus*, a group celebration of the season, featuring works from Kat and Bob Tudor, Don Goede, Jeff Kallaus, Justin Kovach and others. Dec. 7-28. Opening reception with a short play, performance art, live music and more, Fri., Dec. 7, 5:30 p.m.

Modbo, 17C E. Bijou St., 633-4240, themodbo.wordpress.com. *Fifth Annual Small Works Show*, a show and sale of artwork no larger than 24 inches in every dimension, hung ceiling to floor in both the Modbo and S.P.Q.R. Opening reception, Fri., Dec. 7, 5-8 p.m.

PICK **Penrose Library,** 20 N. Cascade Ave., 531-6333, ppld.org. *In Our Own Backyard: Remembering Historic Fires of the Pikes Peak Region*, an exhibition of photography looking at various destructive fires in the area. Find photos from Eric Wulfsberg, Tracey Goodale, Dan Shelley, and Warren and Linda Pearce, who lost their home in the Waldo Canyon Fire.

Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7200, sdc-arts.org. *Own Your Own Art Show & Sale*, Sangre's annual art bonanza, with walls filled top to bottom with reasonably priced artwork for the holidays. Through Dec. 29.

PICK ***Stitches and Stories: A San Luis Valley Christmas,*** a two-night affair: on Fri., Dec. 7 at 6 p.m., the center will host a reception and *posole* supper with storytelling, poetry, Southern Colorado history and more. On Sat., Dec. 8 at 1 p.m. *colcha* artist Josie Lobato will host an embroidery workshop and share holiday stories, legends and culture from the Valley. RSVPs required, via 330-3463 or arts@uccs.edu. Free. UCCS' Heller Center for the Arts and Humanities, 1250 N. Campus Heights, 255-3124, uccs.edu/heller.

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-0475, trilakesarts.org. *TLCA Resident Artists Exhibition*. Dec. 11 to Jan 5. Opening reception, Fri., Dec. 14, 6-8 p.m.

Auditions&Entries

Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association invites youth musicians through high school age to audition for all seven of CSYSA's prestigious performing ensembles. Currently accepting all band and orchestra instruments except flute and oboe; visit website for audition pieces and instructions. Sat., Dec. 8, 9 a.m. to noon. $10. Irving Middle School, 1702 N. Murray Blvd., 633-3901, csysa.com.

First Company seeks actors between 10 and 20 years old to audition at these specific times for its March production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Dec. 11-12, 7-9 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada Ave., 471-8522, fumc-cs.org.

Pikes Peak Opera League seeks applicants for its annual Young Voice Competition, which rewards the talent of singers ages 16-19 in El Paso County with cash prizes and the chance to attend a master class. Entry deadline Feb. 8; visit website for application details. 579-6999, pikespeakoperaleague.org.

The Sunrise Players invite actors to audition for their upcoming production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. See website for more info and to sign up. Sun., Dec. 9, 1-3 p.m. and Thurs., Dec. 13, 6-8 p.m. Sunrise United Methodist Church, 2655 Briargate Blvd., sunriseplayers.com.

THEATREdART will hold auditions for a variety of roles for its upcoming production of *Marisol* by José Rivera. Auditions will be held Mon., Dec. 10 and Tues., Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. E-mail missannafaye@yahoo.com to set up an appointment. THEATREdART, 128 N. Nevada Ave., 357-8321, tinyurl.com/cwyfy7p.

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts seeks entries for its January exhibition entitled *From the Earth: Fine Art in Wood and Clay*. Entries due by Dec. 21. Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-0475, trilakesarts.org.

Clubs&Organizations

EntSpirational Speakers Toastmasters Club, a public-speaking and leadership club meeting at 7350 Campus Drive. First and third Wednesday of every month, 12:05 p.m. entspirational.toastmastersclubs.org.

Open Coffee Club, a meeting held by this local entrepreneurs group, featuring speaker Brad Feld, co-founder of the Foundry Group. RSVP to attend. Thurs., Dec. 6, 7:30 a.m. EpiCentral, 409 North Tejon, #106, meetup.com/opencoffeeclub. A chance to network with like-minded local entrepreneurs. First Thursday of every month. Downtown Perk, 14 S. Tejon St., 924-5479, meetup.com/opencoffeeclub.

Comedy&Improv

Lori Callahan, Dec. 6-8. $2-$10, two-item minimum. Loonee's Comedy Corner, 1305 N. Academy Blvd., 591-0707, loonees.com.

Concerts

Collegium Musicum Renaissance Ensemble Concert, a performance of medieval and Renaissance dance music, early American folk hymns and more. Sun., Dec. 9, 3 p.m. Free. CC's Packard Hall, 5 W. Cache la Poudre St., 389-6607, coloradocollege.edu.

DancePerformances

PICK **Soul Mechanics,** a "public jam session" from the local break-dancing crew. Mondays, Wednesdays, 9 p.m. Ormao Dance Company, 10 S. Spruce St., 471-9759, ormaodance.org.

Film

Beauty Is Embarrassing, two screenings of this new documentary about contemporary artist Wayne White, and his rise to fame. Thurs., Dec. 6, 6 and 8 p.m. Free. Tim Gill Center for Public Media, 315 E. Costilla St., 492-0637, rmpbs.org/timgillcenter.

Finding Kind, a screening of the internationally recognized documentary of the Kind Campaign, which equips families and communities to counteract the long-term effects of girl-against-girl bullying. Wed., Dec. 5, 4 p.m. West Middle School, 1920 W. Pikes Peak Ave., 328-3907, kindcampaign.com.

Google Baby, a screening and discussion of this 2009 documentary, which follows the booming business of purchasing sperm and eggs online, and finding surrogates overseas. "Today, technology has turned 'making a baby' into an act independent of sex." Hosted by Colorado College's Amnesty International student group. Thurs., Dec. 6, 7 p.m. Free. CC's Worner Campus Center, 902 N. Cascade Ave., 389-6607, coloradocollege.edu.

Halcyon, a screening of this film, written and directed by Springs native McKenzie Haglund, with other locals, which follows two ex-Navy shipmates who become trapped in an underwater research vessel. Film star Courtney Gains will be in attendance. Fri., Dec. 7, 7 p.m. Free. Cinemark 16, 3305 Cinema Point, 800/326-3264 ext. 1104, halcyonfilm.com.

Truth About Fracking Film Fest, a screening of various films, like *Gasland* and *Truthland*, with viewpoints from both sides of the issue. Sat., Dec. 8, 1-5 p.m. CC's Armstrong Hall, 14 E. Cache la Poudre St., 389-6000, frackfreesprings.org.

Food&Drink

Allergy-Friendly Food Workshop, a chance to learn how to make raw desserts, with a focus on vegan/paleo cheesecake. Sat., Dec. 8, 2-5 p.m.

$45. Colorado College Women's Club, 20 Mesa Road, 650-5124, bit.ly/ZTXCuv.

Old Colorado City Wine-Bar Tour, a two-block tour of six OCC venues and six wines paired with food. Thursdays, 5 p.m.; through Dec. 27. $48. shopoldcoloradocity.com.

Passport to Carneros, a five-course wine dinner to benefit Marian House, with Jacuzzi Vineyards' Denise Schottleutner and Chef Jay of Pizzeria Rustica. RSVP by Dec. 9. Tues., Dec. 11, 6-9 p.m. $49. Pizzeria Rustica, 2527 W. Colorado Ave., 475-9700, pizzeriarustica.com/eblast/index.php.

Winter Farmers Market, a selection of local seasonal goods including vegetables, apples, eggs, cheese, bread and meats as well as soap, holiday wreaths and alpaca-wool yarn. Second Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; through March 30. Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 689-3133, woodlandparkfarmersmarket.com.

GetInvolved

Annual CSPD Christmas Toy Drive, a drive for new, unwrapped toys for children, and gifts for teens 13 and up. Drop-offs located at any Colorado Springs Police Department station for donation to two local charities that give gifts to disadvantaged children. Christmas Unlimited needs toys, while Teens With Promise needs art supplies, clothing, gift cards and electronics. Through Dec. 25. teenswithpromise.com.

Give! FUNdraiser, a chance to win special prizes while supporting five of the region's most dynamic, fun-loving outdoors- and arts-oriented nonprofits: Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, Rocky Mountain Field Institute, Trails and Open Space Coalition, Kids on Bikes and the Millibo Art Theatre. Thurs., Dec. 6, 5:30-8:30 p.m. CityRock, 21 N. Nevada Ave., 278-2970, indygive.com.

Holiday Mail for Heroes, a chance for everyone to say thanks and send encouragement to soldiers away from home for the holidays by sending cards to P.O. Box 5456, Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456. Sponsored by the American Red Cross; see website for instructions. Through Dec. 7. redcross.org/holidaymail.

How to Create a Green Team, a workshop on how to propose, start and successfully run a green team within your organization, with Kathy Thierry of HB&A Architects and Planners. Pre-registration recommended; fee waived for those who show proof of donation to the Catamount Institute through indygive.com. Fri., Dec. 7, 9-11 a.m. $15. Gold Hill Mesa Community Center, 142 S. Raven Mine Drive, 471-0910, catamountinstitute.org.

Peace Corps Information Session, Thurs., Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m. Free. REI, 1376 E. Woodmen Road, 720/998-6776, peacecorps.gov.

Health&Healing

"Bipolar Disorder: Living and Loving," a talk about what it's like to live with, and love, a spouse with bipolar disorder. Thurs., Dec. 6, 7 p.m. Free. Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, 2132 E. Bijou, #112, 477-1515, dbsacoloradosprings.org.

TDAP and Flu Immunization Clinics, a chance to get immunized against a variety of ailments; especially recommended for childcare workers. Sat., Dec. 8, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Colorado Springs Fire Department Complex, 375 Printers Pkwy., 385-5950, springsgov.com.

Holiday

100 for $100, a holiday art show and sale featuring original works by Tracy Miller, Coni Grant, Patti Filler, Laura Reilly and more. Also held in Fare Bella. Through Dec. 31. Tracy Miller Studio Gallery, 16 Ruxton Ave., Manitou Springs, 650-0827, tracymillerfineart.com.

15th Annual Holiday Headframe Lighting, a true frontier holiday tradition featuring the 1890s-vintage headframes of the mines around Cripple Creek and Victor all lit up now through New Year's. Take a self-guided tour or visit either of the historic towns for a variety of seasonal activities — visit the website for tour map or e-mail for more information. Weekend nights only, weather permitting. Through Dec. 31. 689-2675, stcfg@victorcolorado.com, victorcolorado.com.

2012 Holiday Extravaganza Revue, a fun-filled, family-friendly musical and dramatic smorgasbord with Christmas as the theme and old-fashioned stagecraft as the vehicle. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; through Dec. 22. $9.50-29.50. Iron Springs Chateau, 444 Ruxton Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5104, pikes-peak.com/attraction/15.aspx.

Annual Lights of Love, a chance to remember or honor someone special in your life. Thurs., Dec. 6, 6 p.m. Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 687-0549, prospecthch.org.

PICK **Historic Holiday Tour,** a self-guided tour of Old Colorado City's historic B&Bs and churches, decked out for the holidays. Tour concludes with refreshments and gift drawings at the History Center. Sun., Dec. 9, 1-5 p.m. $10-$25. Old Colorado City Historic Center, 1 S. 24th St., 636-1225, occhs.org.

Ave Maria: Festival of Lessons and Carols, a Christian candlelight service with a scripture reading, congregational carols and more, with the Colorado College Chamber Choir and Frank Shelton on the organ. Sun., Dec. 9, 6 p.m. Free. CC's Shove Memorial Chapel, 1010 N. Nevada Ave., 389-6607, coloradocollege.edu.

Bavarian Christmas, a fundraiser for the philharmonic-supporting Colorado Springs Symphonic Guild, featuring dinner, music and unique auction items. RSVP by Dec. 5 for the Dec. 12, 5:30 p.m. event. $55-$60. Edelweiss, 34 E. Ramona Ave., 633-2220, guild.csphilharmonic.org.

Bear Creek by Candlelight, an all-ages celebration with live animals, music, family activities, a candle-lit trail walk with Santa Claus and chili from Texas Roadhouse. Fri., Dec. 7, 5 p.m. $2 donation. Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road, 520-6387, elpasocountyparks.com.

Bob Telmossé Christmas Giveaway, donate new toys, new or used bikes (kids' especially needed), canned veggies and fruit, turkeys, hams, coats, gloves and hats to this annual drive that helps bring the holidays to needy Pikes Peak region families. This year's giveaway will be held Dec. 21, starting at 7 a.m. at the Freedom Financial Services Expo Center. Volunteers are also needed to sort donations. Go online for drop-off information and more. Donations accepted through Dec. 20. 646-0896, santa-bob.org.

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Senior Pastor

Sunday Services of Worship

Nevada at Bijou

8:20 & 9:45 a.m.
Sanctuary, Blended Style with Choir
9:45 a.m.
Fellowship Hall, Contemporary
11:10 a.m.
Sanctuary, Contemporary
5:00 p.m.
Sanctuary, Contemplative
Nursery at All Services

884-6100

www.first-pres.org

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Dec. 9;
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~ Rev. Jacque Franklin preaches
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Faith Formation Hour 9:45 • Nursery Care 8:15-12:30
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United Church of Christ
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December 9th
David, the ancestor of Jesus "the just ruler is like the light of dawn"
2 Sam 23:1-5, Mt 1:1-6a
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Youth Group meets after services on 1st & 3rd Sundays

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THU: 7pm (Young Adults)
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1515 Auto Mall Loop 80920
thespringschurch.com

Create Community
List your services by calling the *Colorado Springs Independent* at
577-4545

Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org. *Handmade Holiday*, a show and sale of hand-crafted artwork and crafts from locals, with live music, warm beverages and cookies and other holiday entertainment. Saturdays, Sundays; through Dec. 25.

CFAM Winter Market, a European-style market with arts and crafts, goods from area farmers, live music, ice carvings and more. Sat., Dec. 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Margarita at PineCreek, 7350 Pine Creek Road, 598-8667, farmandartmarket.com.

Cheyenne Mountain Holiday Craft Fair and Gift Market, a sale with over 70 vendors offering arts, crafts, food and more. Sat., Dec. 8, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cheyenne Mountain High School, 1200 Cresta Road, 358-9890.

A Christmas Carol, a puppet production of the classic Dickens tale, featuring all hand-made marionettes. Through Dec. 31. Simpich Showcase, 2413 W. Colorado Ave., 465-2492, simpich.com.

Christmas Is Coming, a concert by the America the Beautiful barbershop harmony chorus, with special guests, the Liberty High School choir and the Velvet Hills chorus. Sat., Dec. 8, 2 and 7 p.m. $10. Cheyenne Mountain High School, 1200 Cresta Road, 272-4390, atbchorus.com.

Christmas Joy, the traditional holiday extravaganza of First Presbyterian Church, featuring the 150-member choir, a full orchestra, Celtic musicians, and the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale, Ballet Emmanuel, and the Pikes Peak Ringers. Sun., Dec. 9, 2:30 and 6 p.m. $14-$22. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 884-6144, first-pres.org.

Christmas Madrigal Dinner, a five-course meal with medieval holiday music, entertainment and dancing. Held Thursdays through Saturdays; reservations required. Through Dec. 22. $99. Glen Eyrie Conference Center, 3820 N. 30th St.

The Christmas Mouse On Holiday, a new story in the Christmas Mouse series, in which a new mouse comes to the family home and turns traditions upside down. Through Dec. 22. $10. Millibo Art Theatre, 1367 Pecan St., 465-6321, themat.org.

A Christmas Story, a live performance of the holiday film classic. Through Dec. 23. $15-$37. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5583, csfineartscenter.org.

A Cripple Creek Christmas Carol, a production of this original play that debuted at the Butte in 2002. The show will be followed by a Christmas olio. Through Dec. 30. $8.25-$13.25. Butte Theater, 139 E. Bennett Ave., Cripple Creek, buttetheater.com.

Cripple Creek Christmas Village, a family-friendly holiday celebration full of seasonal decorations, music, Santa Claus, a parade and more. Dec. 8-9. Cripple Creek District Museum, Fifth and Bennett avenues, Cripple Creek, 719/689-2634, 719/689-9540, cripple-creek.org.

Dave Koz and Friends Christmas Tour 2012, a performance of modern takes on holiday classics. Tues., Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m. $45-$65. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469, pikespeakcenter.com.

December Magic, a holiday handbell concert from the Pinnacle Ringers group of the Pikes Peak Youth Ringers. Fri., Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m. Black Forest Lutheran Church, 12455 Black Forest Road, 233-2668, pikespeakyouthringers.com.

Deck the Hall, a performance from the Colorado Springs Chorale, featuring carolers, the Clauses, the Mountain View Ringers and more. Fri., Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469, cschorale.org. Another concert — this one a benefit for social service agencies — will be held Sat., Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. at the Aspen Mine Center, 166 E. Bennett Ave., Cripple Creek.

Electric Safari, a chance to appreciate the 1 million lights spread across the zoo, including over 40 animated sculptures. Zookeepers will be available, as well as select exhibits. Dec. 7 to Jan. 1, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, 4250 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Road, 633-9925, cmzoo.org.

Holiday Artisan Gift Market, a show and sale of arts and crafts from over 40 regional artists, including *Indy* Best Artist winner Liese Chavez, who will give a live painting demonstration, as well as live music. Please bring a donation of canned food for Care and Share. Mon., Dec. 10, 3-8 p.m. Adam's Mountain Café, 934 Manitou Ave., #102, Manitou Springs, 685-1430, tinyurl.com/cr339mh.

Holiday Open House, a learning-oriented holiday fest featuring local authors and the Scholastic Book Fair, free car-seat safety checks from Memorial Children's Hospital, and prizes, arts and crafts and pictures with Santa. Sat., Dec. 8, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Little Sprouts Learning Center, 2336 Vickers Drive, 594-2011, littlesproutslearningcenter.net.

Holiday Ornament Craft Workshop, a chance for kids to create handmade holiday gifts for family and friends, including bird houses, tote bags,

picture frames and more. Event also includes refreshments, door prizes and a photo op with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Sat., Dec. 8, 1-3 p.m. $20-30. Colorado Springs Therapeutic Riding Center, 3254 Paseo Road, 634-4173, cstrc.org.

Holiday Stroll, a night where over 40 downtown Colorado Springs retailers and restaurants will offer up snacks and shopping complemented with prizes, magicians and other live entertainment. Wed., Dec. 5, 5-8 p.m. downtown80903.com.

Hornbek Homestead Holiday Open House, a trip to the 1880s just in time for the holidays, with tours led by staff in period costume and historical artisan demonstrations, followed by old-fashioned seasonal refreshments around a wood stove. Sat., Dec. 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, 15807 Teller County Road 1, Florissant, 748-3253, nps.gov/flfo.

Joyeux Noël, a free benefit concert for Springs Rescue Mission, with selections of Palestrina, Tallis, Lauridsen and more performed by the Soli Deo Choir. Sat., Dec. 8, 3 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada Ave., 471-8522, fumc-cs.org.

King's Island Christmas, a holiday musical from the Runyon. Dec. 7-9. $9-19. Damon Runyon Repertory Theatre, 611 N. Main St., Pueblo, 564-0579, runyontheater.org.

The Madrigal Singers of Glen Eyrie, a performance of holiday music from the group. Saturdays, 1-3 p.m.; through Dec. 22. Terra Verde, 208 N. Tejon St., 444-8621, terraverdestyle.com.

Milk and Cookies With Santa, a fundraiser for Imagination Celebration featuring Santa Claus, stories, a sing-along, a craft center and more. Sat., Dec. 8, 9 a.m. $3. Imagination Celebration, 750 Citadel Drive East, Citadel Mall, 238-1600, shopthecitadel.com.

Modbo Ho Ho, an R-rated Christmas cabaret featuring the best of local musical and burlesque talent. Hosted by Lauren Andrus; special guests include Cherry Glitterbomb, Willow Welter and Birgitta De Pree of the MAT. Seating is first come first served; early arrival recommended. Sat., Dec. 8, 7 and 9:30 p.m. $10. Modbo, 17C E. Bijou St., 633-4240, themodbo.wordpress.com.

Room 46 Winter Concert, a performance by Colorado College's co-ed a cappella group. Fri., Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. Free. CC's Packard Hall, 5 W. Cache la Poudre St., 389-6607, coloradocollege.edu.

Santa Claws, a chance for pets to get their photo taken with "Santa Claws," with a portion of proceeds going to TCRAS, the no-kill animal shelter. Sat., Dec. 8, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 9, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. PetSmart , 2160 Southgate Road, 686-7707.

SET's Holiday Social, a thank-you to the community for supporting the organization. Find food, drink and more. Thurs., Dec. 6, 4 p.m. Free. SET Office, 825 E. Pikes Peak Ave., Bldg. 29, 776-8850, setofcs.org.

Skate in the Park, a chance to skate in a temporary ice rink in the park (skate loan available at the police substation.) Open Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and noon to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Through Dec. 9. Free, donations to the Empty Stocking Fund encouraged. Acacia Park, 115 E. Platte Ave., downtown80903.com.

Woodland Park Wind Symphony Annual Christmas Concert, an evening of holiday music from director Craig Harms and the 50-piece Wind Symphony, Swing Factory and the Woodland Winds. Sun., Dec. 9, 7 p.m. Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 687-2210, woodlandparkwindsymphony.com.

Yule Love It Downtown, a holiday art and shopping crawl through Pueblo's Creative Corridor. Features live music, Riverwalk Boat Rides and painting and photography demonstrations as well as the work of local artists and artisans. Fridays, 5-8 p.m. and Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m.; through Dec. 22. Downtown Pueblo, 719/242-6652, PuebloPAG.org.

Kids&Family

Camp Whiskers & Wags: Winter Edition, a day for kids to be kept busy with hands-on activities with various animals. Sat., Dec. 8, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sat., Dec. 15, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1:30-5:30 p.m. and Dec. 27-29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. $30-$45. Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, 610 Abbott Lane, 473-1741, hsppr.org.

Pre-School Nature Program: Winter, a free craft-and-story program designed to teach kids ages 3-5 about local ecology. This winter-themed session includes a lesson on how to make homemade playdough. Reservations required. Fri., Dec. 7, 10 a.m. Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center, 1805 N. 30th St., 219-0108, gardenofgods.com.

Lectures&Learning

"Leadership," a lecture from Dan Price and Pikes Peak Sales Pros USA. Wed., Dec. 5, 7:30 a.m. $5. Valley Hi Golf Course Clubhouse, 610 S. Chelton Road, 219-3598, valleyhigolfcourse.com.

Minding Your Business, a chance to delve into the library's resources to help grow your business, with targeted advice on competition, vendors, financials and job hunting. Sat., Dec. 8, 8:30-10 a.m. Penrose Library, 20 N. Cascade Ave., 531-6333 x1202, ppld.org.

PICK **Prologue Lecture Series: Robert Rais,** a workshop on improvisational theater, held in honor of TheatreWorks' performance of *You Can't Take It With You*. Sun., Dec. 9, 2 p.m. Free. UCCS' Dusty Loo Bon Vivant Theater, 3955 Regent Circle, 255-3232, theatreworkscs.org.

PICK **"Success, Balance, and Responsibility: Life After CC,"** a presentation by Philip Condit, former CEO of the Boeing Company, who oversaw the 707/727/737 divisions, as well as the 757 and 777 divisions. Wed., Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m. Free. CC's Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave., coloradocollege.edu.

PICK **Cup and Bowl Gallery,** 116 Midway Ave., Pueblo, 719/404-3469, cupandbowl.org. *A Cup & Bowl Christmas*, an exhibition of work from Linda Cates, Kuky Harrington and Maria Hughes. Opening reception, Fri. Dec. 7 , 5 p.m.

Terrariums Unleashed! a how-to class on this reviving horticultural art form. Learn how to make a mini-garden thrive under glass! RSVP recommended; all supplies provided. Thurs., Dec. 6, 1-2 p.m. $23. Phelan Gardens, 4955 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 574-8058, phelangardens.com.

"U.S.-Russia Relations Post-Election," a presentation by Dr. Mel Weissman, two-time Fulbright scholar, author and adjunct professor of history at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Sun., Dec. 9, 10 a.m. Free, please bring a can of food for Care and Share. Temple Beit Torah, 522 E. Madison St., 573-0841, beit-torah.org.

"Vision and Vision Loss: Understanding the Process of Aging," the latest in the CS Science Center Project's popular Science on Tap series, featuring George Ulrich, M.D. explaining the biology of getting old. Mon., Dec. 10, 6:30-8 p.m. Jack Quinn Irish Alehouse & Pub, 21 S. Tejon St., 385-0766, csscienceontap.org.

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SEA WOLF - JAN 24 (ON SALE NOW)
IRATION - JAN 31 (ON SALE FRI)
PAPER BIRD, HE'S MY BROTHER SHE'S MY SISTER - MAR 19 (ON SALE FRI)

Fri, Dec. 7th - 6:30pm
NEVER SHOUT NEVER
FEAT: WILLIAM BECKETT (OF THE ACADEMY IS), ANARBOR, BLEACH BLONDE

Sat, Dec. 8th - 8:00pm
40oz TO FREEDOM
FEAT: NICK PAULY (OF OFFBEAT REVOLUTION), MAD TREES

Sun, Dec. 9th - 8:00pm
PRESENTED BY 103.9 RXP
RXP ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS BASH FEATURING ZZ WARD
FEAT: A SILENT FILM, YELLOW RED SPARKS, CAPITAL CITIES

Fri, Dec. 14th - 8:00pm
PRESENTED BY 94.3 KILO
TEXAS HIPPIE COALITION
FEAT: HILLBILLY HERALD, PAIN MACHINE

Sat, Dec. 15th - 8:00pm
DESERT NOISES
FEATURING: THE GREAT HOTEL FIRE, BRIDGES WILL BREAK, KNIGHT IN COLORS

Fri, Dec. 21st - 8:00pm
KRIZZ KALIKO
FEATURING: GRITTY MUSICK, SLO PAIN, 17 ENTS, HEX RATED

Sat, Dec 22nd - 8:00pm
BKG PRESENTS THE 4TH ANNUAL "RAP PRESENTS"
BLACK PEGASUS
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Fri, Dec. 28th - 7:30pm
THE MYTH OF MODERN MEDICINE
FEAT: LEFTMORE, DECEMBER DOWNFALL, AMERICAN MOURNING

Sat, Dec. 29th - 7:30pm
MIDGARD CD RELEASE SHOW!
MIDGARD
FEATURING: SPECIAL GUESTS

Sat, Jan. 5th - 8:00pm
FATHER JOHN MISTY
FEATURING: MAGIC TRICK, EL TORO DE LA MUERTE

Fri, Jan. 18th - 8:00pm
REVEREND HORTON HEAT
FEATURING: RENO DIVORCE

UPCOMING EVENTS
JAN 23 - TRIBAL SEEDS
JAN 24 - SEA WOLF
JAN 28 - THE TOASTERS
JAN 30 - THE OVERSEER, FIT FOR A KING
JAN 31 - IRATION
FEB 1 - PENNYWISE
FEB 2 - KRADDY
FEB 5 - HATEBREED
FEB 7 - THE GROWLERS
FEB 10 - EL TEN ELEVEN
MAR 19 - PAPER BIRD, HE'S MY BROTHER SHE'S MY SISTER

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CAYTON
PHOTOGRAPHY

Congratulations to Gretchen and Chris on their wedding Sat., Nov. 3, 2012 at St. Paul Catholic Church. Cocktails and dinner reception at The Broadmoor followed the ceremony.
www.caytonphotography.com

"We Fight for Roses Too: Time-Use and Global Gender Justice," a presentation by University of Colorado professor Alison Jaggar, "a pioneer in introducing feminist concerns into philosophy and in establishing the discipline of women and gender studies." Thurs., Dec. 6, 3:30 p.m. Free. CC's Worner Campus Center, 902 N. Cascade Ave., 389-6607, coloradocollege.edu.

LiteraryEvents

Garden of the Gods book signing, a presentation of *365 Days of Pikes Peak ...T he Journey*, a photo essay book by Shaun Daggett, "The Pikes Peak Guy," featuring anecdotes from his quest to capture a different image of the Peak every day for a year. Seating limited; reservations required. Sat., Dec. 8, 10 a.m. Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center, 1805 N. 30th St., 219-0108, gardenofgods.com.

Hooked on Books Signing, a signing with children's-literature authors Michael and Kathleen Hague. Fri., Dec. 7, 3-7 p.m. Hooked on Books, 3918 Maizeland Road, 596-1621, hookedonbooksonline.com.

PICK **Denver Art Museum,** 100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy., Denver, 720/865-5000, denverartmuseum.org. *El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote to You about Africa*, a retrospective of this African artist, which includes 65 works, made from found objects like scrap metal, bottle caps, wood and other salvaged items. Through Dec. 30. *Dana Schutz: If the Face Had Wheels*, a career survey of this young artist, "recognized for her voracious imagination, strong subject matter and vibrant color palette." Through Jan. 13. *Becoming Van Gogh*, a groundbreaking show chronicling the famous artist's self-taught career. The show — developed by the DAM — features about 70 Van Goghs and 20 works by artists who influenced him. Through Jan. 20.

Visiting Writers Series: Andrew Pyper, a reading by "Canada's premiere suspense novelist," and author of *Lost Girls*, *The Killing Circle* and *The Guardians*. Wed., Dec. 5, 7 p.m. Free. CC's Gates Common Room, 1025 N. Cascade Ave, coloradocollege.edu.

SpecialEvents

PICK **71st Pearl Harbor Observance,** a ceremony to mark the anniversary of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in 1941. Speeches will be followed by a wreath-laying and fly-overs by World War II aircraft. Fri., Dec. 7, 11 a.m. Memorial Park, 1605 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 635-8803.

Historic Woodland Park Walking Tour, a tour that meets at the Ute Pass History Park and Museum Center (231 E. Henrietta Ave, Woodland Park). Second Saturday of every month, 2 p.m. 686-7512.

Spirituality

"Rethinking Fundamentalist Rhetoric: Religion and Politics After the Election," a discussion about the changing nature of religion and politics in the U.S. following the election with Colorado College professor David Gardiner and University of Colorado at Colorado Springs professor Jeff Scholes. Thurs., Dec. 6, 7 p.m. Free. Colorado College Women's Club, 20 Mesa Road, 303/669-2836, bodhimindcenter.org.

Uncovering Past Lifetimes, a chance to uncover details of past lives through gentle relaxation hypnosis and group discussion. Sat., Dec. 8, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. $25. Unity Church in the Rockies, 1945 Mesa Road, 238-5945, cospringshypnotherapy.com.

Sports&Recreation

Avalanche Terrain: Beyond the Basics, a lecture on avalanche awareness and safety from Spencer Logan of the Colorado Avalanche Information Center. Wed., Dec. 5, 7-8:30 p.m. Mountain Chalet, 226 N. Tejon St., 633-0732, mtnchalet.com.

Men's Roller Derby, a competitive match between the Mountain Mad Men and the Rollin' Bones from Denver. Sat., Dec. 8, 7 p.m. $10-$12. Big House Sports, 2660 Vickers Drive, 599-7260, mensrollerderbyassociation.com.

Stocking Shuffle 5K, a fundraiser for the Empty Stocking Fund, featuring a road race on the Colorado College campus. Sat., Dec. 8, 10 a.m. $15-$20. CC's Washburn Field, 14 E. Cache La Poudre St., 203/733-4165, stockingshuffle.org.

Stage

Moonlight & Magnolias, a comedy set during the filming of *Gone With the Wind*. Dec. 7-22. Impossible Playhouse, 1201 N. Main St., Pueblo, 719/542-6969, impossibleplayers.org.

You Can't Take It With You, a performance by TheatreWorks of George Kaufman's comedic play about family tension, which won the 1937 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Dec. 6-23. $35, $15 for kids under 16. UCCS' Dusty Loo Bon Vivant Theater, 3955 Regent Circle, 255-3232, theatreworkscs.org.

VolunteerOpportunities

March of Dimes seeks volunteers to serve on the planning committee for the 2013 Colorado Springs March for Babies fundraising walk. To learn more, RSVP for the first planning committee meeting. Wed., Dec. 5, 6 p.m. March of Dimes, 421 S. Tejon St., #310, 473-9981, asagan@marchofdimes.com.

Peak Area Council of Governments seeks volunteers with good clerical and customer service skills to work in the Senior Information and Assistance Center four to seven hours per week. 471-7080, jwilkinson@ppacg.org.

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments seeks a volunteer to serve as a citizen-at-large on its community-advisory committee. Deadline for applications is Dec. 14. ppacg.org.

OutofTown

special events

Blossoms of Light, a holiday spectacular featuring over one million lights illuminating the Gardens, as well as the Gardens at Chatfield. Through Jan. 1. $5-$10. Denver Botanic Gardens, 1005 York St., Denver, 720/865-3500, botanicgardens.org.

MORE
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How to Submit a Listing

Listings is a free service we offer to our readers. If you'd like to publicize an event or notice, send us the details — who, what, where, when, how much and publishable contact information — in writing **by Wednesday at noon for the following Wednesday's paper**. If humanly possible, please do so at csindy.com: Simply click "Submit an event" at the bottom of the homepage, and the rest is self-explanatory. Other means of submission include e-mail (listings@csindy.com) or fax (577-4107). One-time events typically make it into the issue on the Wednesday leading up to that event; ongoing events sometimes are included in additional issues. That said, events are included on a space-available basis, meaning we can't ever guarantee a listing will make it into print. So we strongly discourage relying on Listings as your sole source of publicity — if you'd like to guarantee placement in the *Indy*, you can purchase an ad in our classifieds section or in our retail advertising section by calling 577-4545. Questions? E-mail listings@csindy.com or call 577-4545.

StrangerThanFiction

Curses, foiled again

Brian Hardman, 22, pointed a gun at Leonard Turner, putting air in his tires at a Detroit gas station, and demanded his car. Turner, 47, a former middleweight boxer, grabbed Hardman's trigger finger and shot off the gun until it was empty, then threw Hardman to the ground. "He got up," Turner recounted, "and said, 'Give me my gun back. I got a CCW (carry concealed weapon permit).' Then I hit him with the gun."

At trial, defense attorney Jonathan Jones argued Hardmant shouldn't be charged with carjacking because he didn't have the gun on him. "The reason," Judge Shannon A. Holmes noted, "is because the defendant got his butt whipped, and Mr. Turner took the gun from him." (*Detroit News*)

Susan Cole showed up for jury duty in Denver wearing curlers in her hair and mismatched shoes, according to a court affidavit. When Judge Anne Mansfield asked if any prospective jurors had a mental illness, court reporter Kelli Wessels said Cole "stated she had difficulties getting ready in the morning" and that she suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. Judge Mansfield excused her but four months later heard someone brag on local radio about showing up looking disheveled and faking mental illness to evade jury duty. The woman was identified as Cole, who pleaded guilty to perjury and received a two-year suspended sentence and 40 hours of community service. (*The Denver Post*)

Tourist trade

New York and New Jersey victims of Hurricane Sandy complained their cleanup efforts are interrupted by disaster tourists, who're drawn by curiosity to the real-life scenes of tragedy shown on television. "The gawking was amazing last week," Staten Island resident Joanne McClenin commented. "It was kind of offensive as a homeowner, because I felt violated." (Associated Press)

Seven years after Hurricane Katrina flooded New Orleans, tour buses continue to visit the devastated Lower Ninth Ward, charging an average of $45 per person to glimpse what some tour operators promote as the scene of "America's Greatest Catastrophe." After years of loosely enforcing a ban on motor coaches, police began turning back tours and fining violators. "Residents don't like being gawked at by tourists as though they're sideshow attractions," city councilor Ernest F. Charbonnet declared, vowing to introduce legislation to limit buses to 30 passengers along a designated route. (*The New York Times*)

Litigation nation

David Jiminez, 43, spent hours at the large crucifix outside St. Patrick's Church in Newburgh, N.Y., praying for his wife, who was battling ovarian cancer. When she recovered, he offered to clean the crucifix in gratitude. While he was scrubbing Christ's face, the 600-pound marble statuary toppled over and crushed his right leg, which doctors had to amputate. Even though charitable foundations covered his six-figure medical bills, Jiminez sued the church for $3 million. The church denied any responsibility. (Associated Press)

For whom the toll tolls

When Washington's Capital Beltway opened new toll express lanes in Virginia, adjacent to the free but routinely congested lanes, six accidents occurred in the first 72 hours. All were caused by drivers swerving to avoid the toll lanes or the tie-ups resulting from the accidents. Virginia State Police urged drivers who mistakenly enter the express lanes not to back up. "What we're seeing out there is what you'd expect with a traffic shift of this magnitude," said Jennifer Aument, an official with Transurban, the company that contracted with the state to build the variable-toll lanes. (*The Washington Post*)

In its first six months, Maryland's Intercounty Connector racked up nearly $670,000 in unpaid tolls — four times the statewide rate. Vehicles that use the road without a transponder to record the trip and automatically deduct the toll from an account are photographed and owners billed. Individuals accrued as much as $1,418, and one rental-car company's debt amounted to $4,263. Officials said some don't pay because Maryland's toll collectors lack enforcement authority, such as suspending vehicle registrations and referring scofflaws to the courts. State lawmakers promised to address collection methods next year. "We can't afford to leave money on the table," State Sen. Catherine E. Pugh said. "The ICC was a very expensive road to build." (*The Washington Post*)

Constitutional follies

Combat City, a shooting range in Orlando, Fla., lets customers fire at each other to test whether they can shoot another person if their life depends on it. Owner Dave Kaplan greets customers, searches them for concealed weapons and ammunition, and modifies their weapons to fire only a soft rubber bullet. Participants then enter the range wearing protection for their head, neck and private parts. Even so, the rubber bullets hurt, more so than being shot with a paintball. "There is supposed to be a degree of pain," Kaplan explained, "so that you do learn from it." (Orlando's WKMG-TV)

An employee at Copper County Sporting Arms gun shop in Silver City, N.M., was unloading a handgun when it accidentally fired, shooting a 65-year-old customer in the back. Police Chief Ed Reynolds reported the victim was in stable condition. (*Las Cruces Sun-News*)

Compiled by Roland Sweet. Send clippings, citing source and date, to P.O. Box 8130, Alexandria, VA 22306.

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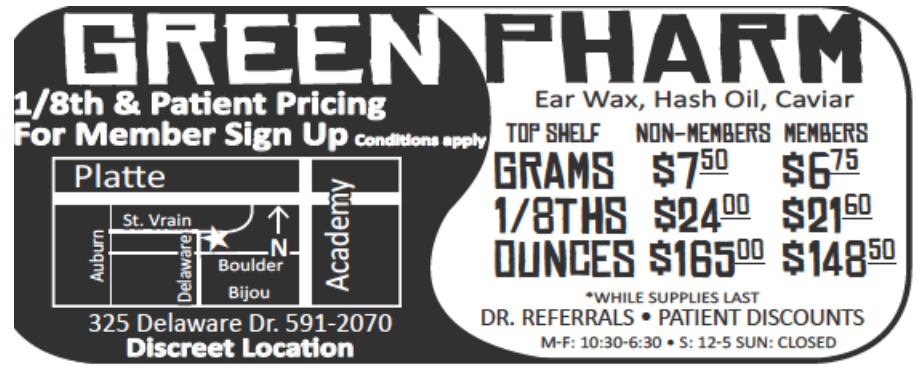

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Medical marijuana news of the week

Official indetermination

In light of recent developments, we've been seeking feedback from different city departments on how they'll handle marijuana. Of course, we don't just mean because of the passage of Amendment 64, but also because of situations like Bob Crouse's, where the Colorado Springs Police Department felt the facts were substantial and the case was good. Of course, a jury disagreed.

Eventually, this put the department in the awkward position of having to return his marijuana that was seized as evidence and decidedly *not* maintained, as the medical-marijuana-creating Amendment 20 mandates evidence must be, creating possible civil-suit liabilities. It's not something the police have an answer to yet, Chief **Pete Carey** tells the *Independent*.

"In a perfect world, I wouldn't have to worry about maintaining plants," he says in a phone interview. "It's a health issue, and it's an issue with the value of the item you pulled out [of the ground]. So we're trying to strike a balance there. There's plenty of times we're still gonna need to safely store marijuana, so I gotta get that figured out."

This is on top of the ambivalent approach city leaders are adopting in response to recent legalization permitting 1 ounce of marijuana for adults. Here's a statement provided to the *Indy* from city attorney Chris Melcher:

"As the State Attorney General's office has said, there are complicated issues that will have to be sorted out in the coming months — including what constitutes a public space or a private space for personal use; what constitutes impairment for purposes of motor vehicle laws; [and] whether retail locations or retail shops should be permitted in the city limits." It adds: "Regardless of when Amendment 64 becomes effective in our state, there still remains a conflict with federal law. The City, the County and the State are waiting to hear from the Federal Government as to their position on this issue."

Keef crumbs

• *Westword* reported last Wednesday that the Colorado Medical Marijuana Enforcement Division has finally begun registering the locations of **private caregivers**, as required in House Bill 1284.

• On Nov. 26, the *Denver Post* reported that a case before the Colorado Court of Appeals may answer whether or not employers can enforce drug-free policies that have always included marijuana.

"Colorado's Lawful Off-Duty Activities Statute prevents employers from firing workers because of the legal things those employees do outside the office ... as long as those activities do not conflict with the employees' work," wrote John Ingold. "[MMJ patient **Brandon] Coats'** case is the first to challenge whether that protection extends to marijuana use that is legal under Colorado law but illegal under federal law."

The court has not said when it will rule.

— Bryce Crawford

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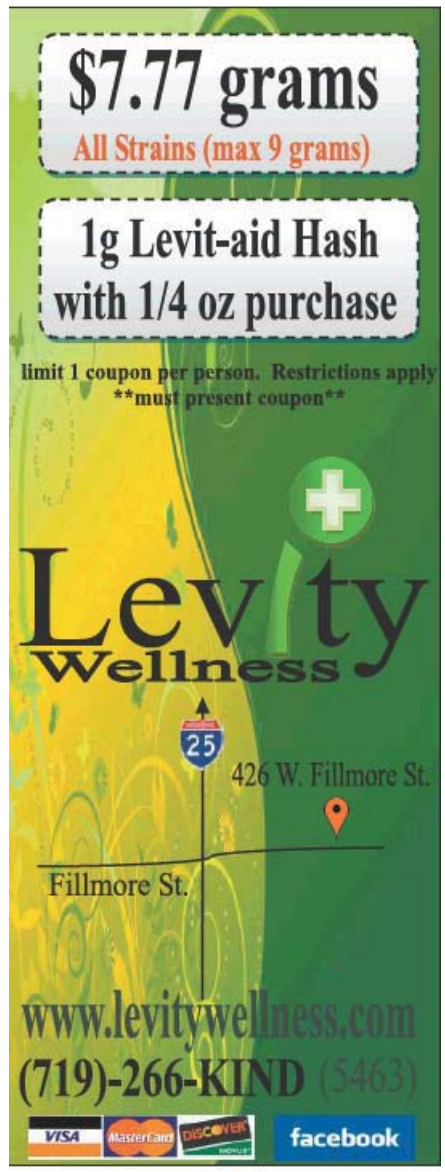

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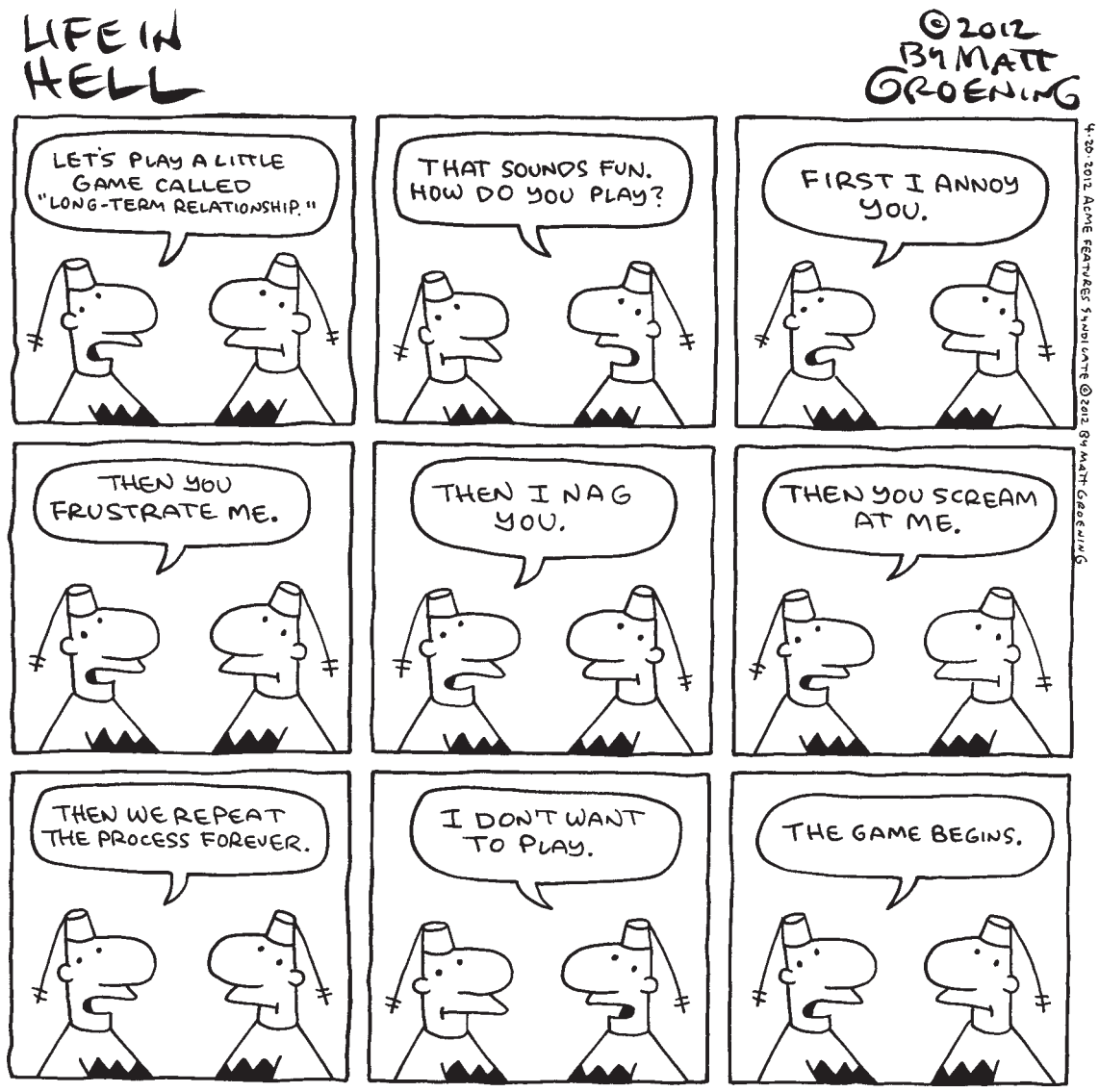
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AdviceGoddess

By Amy Alkon

The sorrow and the pretty

Do men in troubled relationships often seek someone to give them a nudge to get out? I often attract these men, some of whom I suspect just want a backup relationship before splitting with the wife. I happen to be interested in the current man confiding in me about his angry, obsessive wife. I won't tell him to leave on my account, but I hate to see such a great man putting up with her. — Catalyst

You've gotta give a guy points for an original spin on a tired pickup line: "If I said you have a beautiful body, would you let me sob on your shoulder about my mean wife?"

As a listener, you provide considerable cost savings over the guy with the gray beard, the monocle and the couch, and it can't hurt that crying on your shoulder comes with a front row seat to your jigglies. Your presence can also provide a helpful thumb on the "I'm outta here!" side of the scale for a man who lacks a Ouija Board, a Magic 8-Ball, or the guts to make a decision. And while it is possible that some of these men fall for you, it's also possible that any "I love you! I want you! I have to have you!" a man blurts out is just a bad translation of "Eeek! I'll be alone, and you're cute and nice to me. You'll do."

It is a bit odd that, the way some women collect Hello Kitty, you collect "Hello, I'm teetering on an angry divorce." Are you maybe insecure about getting involved with a guy when all you have to offer is you? With a man in a troubled marriage, you start with a competitive advantage — how endearingly sane and reasonable you seem compared to Mrs. Satan. And a man in crisis requires conversational triage — attending to those bleeding out first. (No need to lay your feelings on the line; you can focus on his problems and bond over how you're the listening postess with the mostest.)

It's time you retired from running the Unhappily Married Man Rescue.

As for the latest man crying out to you from the Trail of Tear-Streaked Kleenex, consider the obvious: A man confiding in you about his "angry, obsessive wife" is a man who is NOT AVAILABLE. Maybe it's time you retired from running the Unhappily Married Man Rescue and take a run at the unencumbered. (At the very least, strictly limit the ear-time you give to other women's leftovers that aren't quite left.) You should find that a man has much more to give when he isn't panicking that his wife will take half of everything he owns, including his man parts she's got squirreled away in a drawer somewhere.

Breaking the unsound barrier

Last night, a girl I was seeing several months ago texted me, wanting to get back together. She'd cut all ties with me after accusing me of causing her brother to abuse her, both emotionally and physically. We'd been sexting, and her brother read one of my texts, and she blamed me for his behavior, either for making the abuse happen or for making it worse. She's no longer living with her brother, and I'm tempted to go back to her, but I don't want to ruin things with this new girl I'm seeing who seems kind, understanding and more stable. — Decisions

Think about how this works in an action movie. Typically, the film ends with the hero safe and sound in a bar, reflecting on his narrow escape. (In *Jaws*, the guy didn't turn around and go back in for a swim.)

You can feel sorry for this woman and hope she gets some help, but a woman who blames you for another person's behavior is telling you something — she's irrational and unstable and you've probably only grazed the tip of the drama iceberg. In a word, FLEE! — unless you luck out, and she ditches you. (The self-removing problem girlfriend is the next best thing to a bag of trash that grows legs and walks itself out to the curb.)

It's actually pretty imperative to make rationality, self-respect and emotional stability your top must-haves in a girlfriend and to be mindful of how easy it is to rationalize the behavior of the drama dispensers, especially when reminiscing about the hot times. (Red lingerie always pleads its case louder than red flags, and the crazies always seem more fun in bed.) But, getting together with an irrational, unstable woman — especially one with irrational, unstable, meddling relatives — is like sticking your life in a wood chipper. Ultimately, if a woman's going to take your breath away, it shouldn't be because there's only a little more oxygen left in the trunk of her nutbag brother's car.

***Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave, #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail adviceamy@aol.com (advicegoddess.com). Alkon is the author of* I See Rude People: One Woman's Battle To Beat Some Manners Into Impolite Society.**

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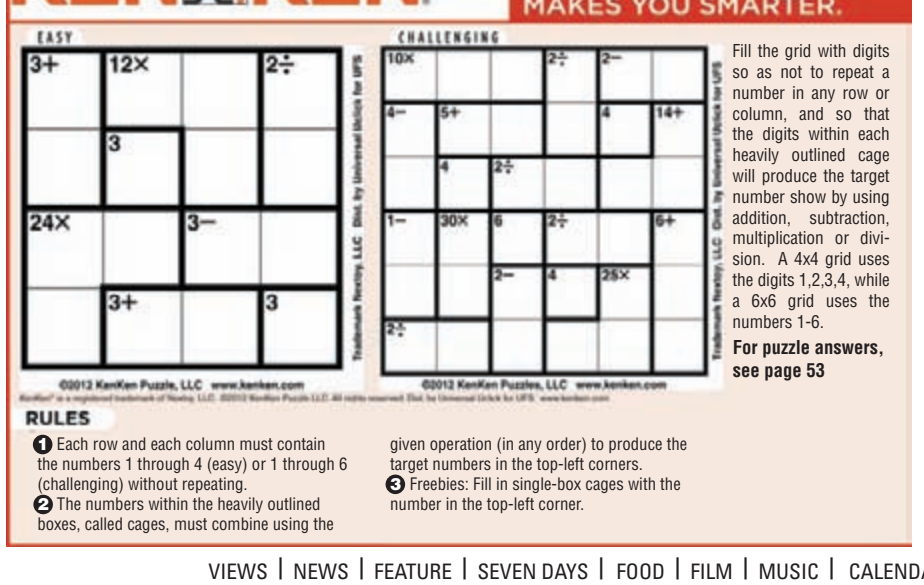
SUDUKO X
Complete the grid so that every row, column, diagonal and 3x3 box contain the numbers 1 to 9. Use logic to define the answers. Answers on page 53



Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a number in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined cage will produce the target number show by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. A 4x4 grid uses the digits 1,2,3,4, while a 6x6 grid uses the numbers 1-6.

For puzzle answers, see page 53

RULES

1. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
3. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

FreeWillAstrology

By Rob Brezsny

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you thoroughly shuffle a deck of cards, the novel arrangement you create is probably unique in all of human history; its specific order has never before occurred. I suspect the same principle applies to our lives: Each new day brings a singular set of circumstances that neither you nor anyone else in the last 10,000 years has ever had the pleasure of being challenged and intrigued by. There is always some fresh opportunity, however small, that is being offered you for the first time. I think it's important for you to keep this perspective in mind during the coming week. Be alert for what you have never seen or experienced before.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Spencer Silver was a co-inventor of Post-it notes, those small, colorful pieces of paper you can temporarily attach to things and then remove to use again and again. Speaking about the process he went through to develop this simple marvel, he said, "If I had thought about it, I wouldn't have done the experiment. The literature was full of examples that said you can't do this." I'd like to make him your patron saint for the next few weeks, Aries. Like him, you now have the chance to make practical breakthroughs that may have seemed impossible, or at least unlikely. Ignore conventional wisdom — including your own. Trust your mischievous intuition.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The axolotl is a kind of salamander that has an extraordinary capacity for regenerating itself. If it loses a leg in an accident, it will grow a new one in its place. It can even fix its damaged organs, including eyes, heart and brain. And get this: There's never any scar tissue left behind when its work is done. Its power to heal itself is pretty much perfect. I nominate the axolotl to be your power animal in the coming weeks, Taurus. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you now have an extraordinary ability to restore any part of your soul that got hurt or stolen or lost.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In the coming months, I hope that you will get sweet revenge. In fact, I *predict* that you will get sweet revenge. Keep in mind that I'm not talking about angry, roaring vindication. I don't mean you will destroy the reputations of your adversaries or reduce them to humiliating poverty or laugh at them as they grovel for mercy while lying in a muddy gutter. No, Gemini. The kind of revenge I foresee is that you will achieve a ringing triumph by mastering a challenge they all believed would defeat you. And your ascent to victory starts now.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I would love to speak with you about your hesitancy to fully confront your difficulties. But I will not speak forthrightly, since I'm pretty sure that would irritate you. It might even motivate you to procrastinate even further. So instead I will make a lame joke about how if you don't stop avoiding the obvious, you will probably get bitten in the butt by a spider. I will try to subtly guilt-trip you into taking action by implying that I'll be annoyed at you if you don't. I will wax sarcastic and suggest that maybe just this once, ignorance is bliss. Hopefully that will nudge you into dealing straightforwardly with the unrest that's burbling.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "Drama is life with all the boring parts cut out of it," said Leo filmmaker Alfred Hitchcock. By that criterion, I'm guessing that your experience in the coming week will have a high concentration of magic and stimulation. You should be free from having to slog through stale details and prosaic storylines. Your word of power will be *succulence*. For best results, I suggest you take active control of the unfolding adventures. Be the director and lead actor in your drama, not a passive participant who merely reacts to what the other actors are doing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): One of my spiritual teachers once told me that a good spiritual teacher makes an effort not to seem too perfect. She said some teachers even cultivate odd quirks and harmless failings on purpose. Why? To get the best learning experience, students must be discouraged from over-idealizing the wise advisors they look up to. It's crucial they understand that achieving utter purity is impossible and unrealistic. Being perceived as an infallible expert is dangerous for teachers, too; it makes them prone to egotistical grandiosity. I bring this up, Virgo, because it's an excellent time to reduce the likelihood that you'll be seduced by the illusion of perfection.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): This would be a good week to talk to yourself far more than you usually do. If you're the type of person who never talks to yourself, this is a perfect time to start. And I do mean that you should speak the words out loud. Actually address yourself with passionate, humorous, ironic, sincere, insightful comments, as you would any person you care about. Why am I suggesting this? Because according to my interpretation of the astrological omens, you would benefit from the shock of literally hearing how your mind works. Even more importantly: The cheerleading you do, the encouragement you deliver, and the motivational speeches you give would have an unusually powerful impact if they were audibly articulated.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In the fairy tale "Beauty and the Beast," a grotesque human-like creature hosts the heroine in his home, treating her like a queen. She accepts his hospitality but rejects his constant requests to marry him. Eventually, he collapses from heartache. Moved by the depth of his suffering, she breaks into tears and confesses her deep affection for him. This shatters the spell and magically transforms the Beast back into the handsome prince he originally was. Your life may have parallels to this story in the coming months, Scorpio. You might be tested. Can you discern the truth about a valuable resource that doesn't look very sexy? Will you be able to see beauty embedded in a rough or shabby form?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): I wish I could do more than just fantasize about helping you achieve greater freedom. In my dreams, I am obliterating delusions that keep you moored to false idols. I am setting fire to the unnecessary burdens you lug around. And I am tearing you away from the galling compromises you made once upon a time in order to please people who don't deserve to have so much power over you. But it's actually a good thing I can't just wave a magic wand to make all this happen. Here's a much better solution: You will clarify your analysis of the binds you're in, supercharge your willpower, and liberate yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In his book *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*, Tom Robbins talks about a gourmet who "gave up everything, traveled thousands of miles and spent his last dime to get to the highest lamasery in the Himalayas to taste the dish he'd longed for his whole life, Tibetan peach pie. When he got there ... the lamas said they were all out of peach. 'OK,' said the gourmet, 'make it apple.'" I suspect you'll be having a comparable experience sometime soon, Aquarius. You may not get the exact treat you wanted, but what you'll receive is something that's pretty damn good. I urge you to accept the gift as is!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "Having 'a sense of self' means possessing a set of stories about who we are," according to William Kittredge in his book *The Nature of Generosity*. He says there are two basic types of stories: The first is "cautionary tales, which warn us" and therefore protect us. The second consists of "celebratory" tales, which we use to heal and calm ourselves. I believe that you Pisceans are now in a phase when you primarily need celebratory stories. It's time to define yourself with accounts of what you love and value and regard as precious.

HOMEWORK: Write a parable or fairy tale that captures what your life has been like in 2012. Freewillastrology.com.

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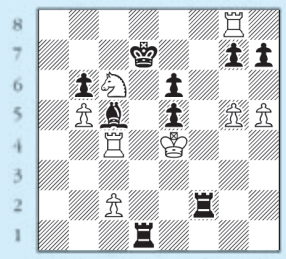

BLACK TO PLAY

Hint: Black forces mate.

For puzzle answers, see page 53

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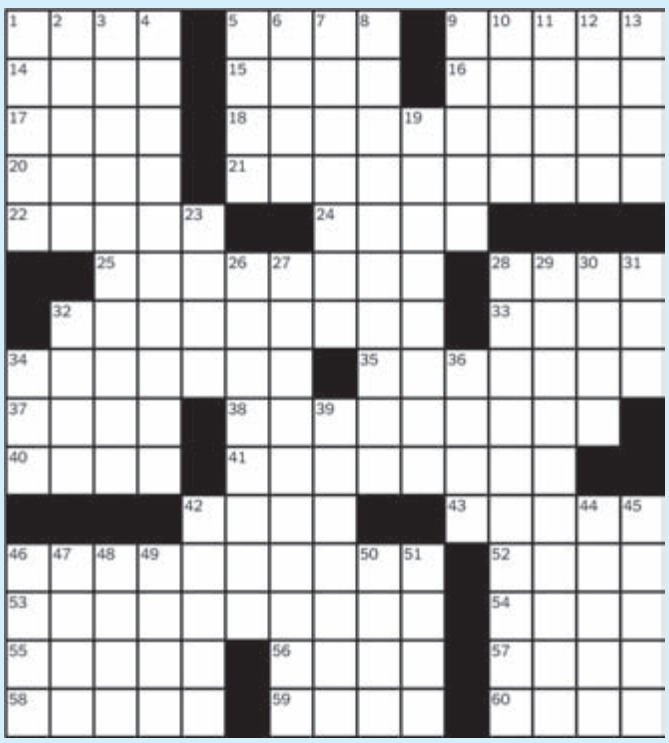

The New York Times Crossword

ACROSS

1 Gremlins of the '70s, e.g.
5 Logic problem
9 Neighbor of Lydia
14 ___ Capital (investment firm)
15 Q7 maker
16 Like a national flag with a sword on it
17 Rising star?
18 One blatantly disobeying traffic laws
20 Pitcher Bedard
21 Tropical aquarium plants
22 Like small potatoes?
24 Greven who wrote the 2008 best seller "How to Talk to Girls"
25 Holy higher-ups
28 "All in the Family" exclamation
32 Cell group
33 Creep's peep
34 With 11-Down, bugging no end
35 Aperture in some drills
37 Used bikes
38 It prompts tipping in a bar
40 Accessory near a basin
41 Relative of a man crush
42 Calls from a 27-Down
43 Reluctant wearer of a cap
46 "I'm not upset, really"
52 Classic covered walk
53 Composition of some orange spheres
54 Word with letters?
55 They take people out
56 Play to ___
57 Commend
58 Flavian dynasty ruler
59 The opposition
60 Heat meas.

DOWN

1 ___ J. Mikva, White House counsel under Clinton
2 Much-tattooed people
3 What a mayor tries to instill
4 Carver of Hells Canyon
5 Die
6 It'll help you get a bite
7 Flatter to a fault
8 Flexibility
9 Hull of the Constitution
10 Propulsion gear
11 See 34-Across
12 Flash d'inspiration
13 Isn't fine
19 Shakespearean title character
23 First name in '50s TV
26 Into-the-stands homer, say
27 Mohair source
28 "High Fidelity" star, 2000
29 Like a diva
30 W competitor
31 First character seen in "Zelig"
32 Boat stem
34 2009 Grammy winner for "Crack a Bottle," briefly
36 Hit the dirt?
39 Start to tank
42 Bill of fashion
44 Italian for "baked"
45 Flip chart supporter
46 "Law & Order: SVU" co-star
47 Move before taking off
48 Vexation
49 1943 U.S.-vs.-Japan battle site
50 ___ Taylor, old sitcom character
51 Believe

For puzzle answers, please see pg. 53

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Crossword

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CHESS QUIZ

From page 52:
1. ...Re1ch!
2. Kd3, ... Re3 mate!

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EndZone

By Ralph Routon

What we're still missing

Did you enjoy watching Wisconsin's 70-31 rout of Nebraska in the Big Ten championship game? Did you get a kick out of Florida State keeping a 6-6 Georgia Tech team out of the Orange Bowl?

Did you fall asleep before the end of Kansas State steamrolling Texas to grab a share of the Big 12 title? Did you chew off your fingernails wondering whether Louisville would hold off Rutgers for the Big East's Bowl Championship Series berth?

Let's face it. On the weekend of Nov. 29-Dec. 1, with interest at its peak, the nation saw one outstanding, meaningful, college football game. That was Alabama vs. Georgia, arguably the best two Southeastern Conference teams but — from the looks of their defenses — not at the same level as the SEC powerhouses that have won the past six national titles.

It could have been so much better. We could have been enjoying the first round of a real major-college football tournament. Or perhaps a handful of play-in games involving second-tier conference champions to determine the final field of playoff qualifiers.

This second-guessing has happened every year, but it's even more painful after the recent news of a four-team college playoff commencing in 2014.

Instead of soothing those of us who want playoffs, it's driving us even more crazy.

What if we had a four-team playoff this year? It would be Notre Dame, Alabama, Oregon and … Kansas State? Florida? Why not Georgia? And who's better than Stanford right now? For that matter, Oklahoma? You could easily have a situation where any of the Nos. 5 through 8 teams could, and perhaps would, knock off anyone from the top four.

Problem solved? Hell, no. Problem intensified.

At least we can take solace in the first step having been made. From the four-team format, it should be easier expanding further, to eight, 12 or even 16 teams.

But let's start by doing away with conference championship fiascos, starting with the Big Ten. Granted, Ohio State and Penn State were ineligible, but still, we're left with a five-loss Wisconsin team in the Rose Bowl. That's ridiculous.

Meanwhile, in the Pac-12, Stanford gets the reward of facing Wisconsin after beating Oregon and then UCLA twice in six days. But the Cardinal would have no shot at making a four-team playoff, despite being probably the best or second-best team in America since Halloween.

Alabama lost at home to Texas A&M. Georgia got throttled at South Carolina. Florida fell to Georgia. Stanford stumbled early at Washington, and barely lost to Notre Dame later. Kansas State keeled over at Baylor. Only Notre Dame fully deserves a clear shot. But why not have a way to crown the real champion, the one team that proved itself in the regular season and at the end, with missteps tolerated. After all, the Irish are underdogs by more than a touchdown to Alabama.

If the regular season ended a week earlier, that would open up many more possibilities. All the games after Thanksgiving weekend would mean something, instead of conference games intended only to make money and milk the fans.

Let's ask Nebraska fans how they feel now about going to a bowl after thousands made it to Indianapolis for that colossal embarrassment. Ask Georgia Tech's followers how many will following their 6-7 team to the Sun Bowl in El Paso.

My vote would be for 12 or 16 teams in a tournament. With 12, the top four seeds would get a first-round bye. Either way, worthy champions from second-level leagues like the Mountain West would have a shot of being included (but only by reaching specific standards) along with at-larges from top conferences.

My top eight seeds this year, forgetting conference title games: Notre Dame, Alabama, Stanford, Kansas State, Oregon, Georgia, Florida and … actually, I can't decide between Texas A&M, LSU, Oklahoma and Florida State. So eight isn't enough. Probably the Aggies.

So that could mean quarterfinals of Notre Dame vs. Texas A&M, Alabama vs. Florida, Stanford vs. Georgia and Kansas State vs. Oregon.

Real games, not the farcical stuff. With 12 or 16 teams, the first round would've been this weekend, followed by quarterfinals on Dec. 8. Then an off week before semifinals on Dec. 22, and the championship on or shortly after New Year's Day.

Any arguments?

— routon@csindy.com

SPORTS SHOT

Sad ending Really hurts to hear of long-time college basketball coach Rick Majerus dying far too young at 64. In his years at Utah, he brought great teams, strategy and humor to visit Air Force each year.

Brains and brawn Someone needs to calculate the average IQ for Air Force and Rice, meeting Dec. 29 in the Armed Forces Bowl at Fort Worth, Texas.

Changes Just wondering how close we are to dramatic adjustments making football less violent. We'll hear more as concussion evidence builds.

Frequent fliers After hosting Minnesota this weekend, Colorado College has only one home hockey series between Dec. 8 and February (Jan. 18-19 vs. Minnesota-Duluth), a stretch of nine road games out of 11.

RangerRich

By Rich Tosches

Life with a new lens

A guy stuck a needle in my eye the other day. Here you might be thinking: — Perhaps I was undergoing a procedure to replace my natural lens with a permanent intraocular lens implant.

— You'd rather have a needle stuck in your eye than listen to even 10 more seconds of fiscal cliff babble from House Speaker **John Boehner** (pronounced BAY-ner, to which I say, "Sure it is").

— I probably deserved it.

— If Interior Secretary **Ken** "I'll Punch You Out" **Salazar** actually tried to throw a punch, would his silly cowgirl hat fall off?

(Note: That had nothing to do with the needle in my eye and I hereby apologize to Mr. Salazar. Frankly, it's none of my business if a man wears a funny hat. And where is it written that a man cannot ride a horse sidesaddle?)

Anyway, the correct guess was the first one. I had eye surgery to replace my own lens with an artificial lens. Today, I'm happy to say I see things very clearly.

For example, I see the owner of The Broadmoor resort has purchased our village's daily newspaper. That's nice. Now, when you have a complaint about the ***Gazette***, instead of talking to a customer service representative at a phone center in Florida, you'll be able to talk directly with a poor, sad, homesick Russian or Irish servant woman carrying a stack of freshly starched bedsheets.

For the first time in years I have sharp focus.

Also, with my new eye I can clearly see *Gazette* editorial wizard **Wayne Laugesen** learning how to mow fairways.

My actual procedure was cataract surgery, in which the clouded lens of the eye is removed and replaced with one made of plastic.

Common misconceptions about a cataract include it being a "film over the eye" and that it can "spread from one eye to the other" and, not to be forgotten, it's caused by "too much masturbation." (Scientific footnote: While masturbation has not been linked to cataracts, overdoing it can lead to optic nerve damage and blindness. Not to mention being thrown out of Pizza Hut.)

The surgery was performed by Dr. **John Wright** at the Wright Eye Center here in our village. Dr. Wright operated on my left eye, which confused me a lot. (I had assumed it would be done by his colleague, Dr. Wong. I guess I didn't know Wright from Wong.)

Sorry. I'm on pain medication.

This was my second cataract operation, the right eye having received a similar fake lens two years ago. Doctors told me back then I was a bit young (55) for cataracts. Conversely, one of them told me I was a bit old for unlaced sneakers and gigantic baggy gangsta' pants with my boxer shorts sticking out the top.

(When that doctor went to sit down I pulled the chair out from under him and he understood.)

The procedure last week began two days before the operation with a long series of eye drops. I do not like eye drops. I blink and close my eyes and turn my head away and swat at the hand holding the dropper — even when it's my own hand. I also hear the voices of elderly women speaking to me in Armenian, but that's probably a separate column.

There were more eyedrops the day of surgery, and then the anesthesiologist entered the room. He made me listen to portions of **Mitt Romney**'s campaign speeches and I awoke half an hour later with a new eye.

For several more nights I have to wear a plastic eye guard/goggle thing so I don't gouge my eye out while I sleep. But the good news is that for the first time in years I can see things in sharp focus. It's amazing and fascinating and exciting. On the downside, exactly when did I start to look like **Queen Elizabeth**?

Oh, and the post-op guidelines include this actual sentence: "Check with your doctor before resuming sexual activity or driving."

More importantly, check with your wife before trying to resume sexual activity WHILE driving. I'm still scrubbing the passenger-side dashboard to remove the coffee she blew out of her nose.

***Rich Tosches (rangerrich@csindy.com) also writes a Sunday column in the* Denver Post**.

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